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HODGSON HEADS FOR THE BIG TIME...AGAIN!

Former Berger takes over the “hot-seat” at Olympic Village

Doug Hodgson is back in the big-time after replacing Kon Pappas as the head coach of Foxtel Cup side, Heidelberg United. After spending the best part of the 90's as a professional footballer in England, Hodgson returns to the Olympic Village with a wealth of experience.

Hodgson's football odyssey has taken him from the pitches of Frankston Pines, Western Australia, the NSL, the United Kingdom, country Victoria, NSW and now back to Melbourne. Some 3 ½ years were spent at Sheffield United, 2 ½ years at Oldham Athletic followed by loan spells at Plymouth Argyle and Burnley. A neck injury incurred at training while at Northampton Town ended his career in 1999. All up, he notched over 200 Football League games during his stay in England and faced players such as Dwight Yorke, Sasha Milosovic, Ian Wright, David Beckham, Tony Adams, Paul Scholes, David Ginola and Sol Campbell on a regular basis.

Once his playing days were finished, Hodgson worked under Neil Warnock as Sheffield United's reserve team manager. To this day Hodgson is still the only Australian to ever coach professionally in England. While overseas, Hodgson gained his UEFA “B” badge and has nearly completed his “A” badge, but says “it doesn't mean that I'm a good coach, it just means I'm a qualified coach”.

Hodgson returned to Australia for family reasons even though he still had two years of his contract to run at Bramall Lane. If he'd stayed in England, chances are he probably would have been sitting next to Warnock on the bench for EPL games as the trusty No 2. Never the less, the journey continues and Goal! Weekly caught up with Doug during the week.

a semi-professional manner.

Is there a crisis at Olympic Village?

No. Not at all, we've had a complete change with a new coach coming in and you'll probably see some changes with personnel and so forth, but there's definitely not a crisis. We've got some good quality players there and a lot of experience. We've also got a lot of individual players with the right ability in different areas, but if we can get them to gel together I think you'll see a completely

academies in the country areas, the NSW system and being back in Melbourne that times have changed. I've noticed that the work-rate, the quality and the tempo was a lot higher in the 80's and 90's and in my opinion, I think that some of these boys today have got it a bit easy. I think that some of the attitudes are too relaxed, where as I look at it like a job. Some of these boys are paid money with their contracts and at the end of the day they should treat it like a job. Obviously there are differences between being a



we know as coaches is that we can't guarantee championships, but one thing that I can guarantee is that that player will come away more educated. Coaches basically coach and teach from experience. Stuart Munro's got his experience, I've got mine and other coaches have got theirs. The best you can do is analyse players and situations, implement good man management skills and look at different areas on how to effect different teams.

What sort of style of play do you hope to achieve at Heidelberg?

Good attacking football, that's enjoyable for the crowd. I believe that everyone's got a job to do – defender's have a job to do, midfielders have a job and the strikers have got a job – you get them all to do the right job and the right things, then you can become a good team. Become a good team, you do very well and you can succeed. I won't be playing defensive football, whether it's with a 4-4-2 or 3-5-1 or a 3-4-3, whatever system I choose, nothing changes. The principle of the game remains the same regardless of what shape you choose.

How can we improve the local game?

We need better players. How do we get better players? Coaches have got to make them better. We need to develop and help make the players improve. Like it or not, not everyone can play for the Victory, so the VPL is the breeding ground for the A-league. We have to try and create enough good, quality players so that guys like Ernie Merrick and Gary Cole can have the pick of the bunch.

Do you have ambitions to coach in the A-league one day?

Let's be fair, I never came back to Australia for football reasons. If I wanted to stay in football I would have stayed back in the UK. If a job ever arises I've learnt to never say no and you never, say never. Who knows? I'm sure, and I mean this sincerely, that if there's anything that I can do to help with my experience and with the people I know and my contacts overseas, then my phone will always be on for people in the need. At the end of the day, it's about developing football and football in Victoria.

Advice to youngsters?

Be prepared to be dedicated and motivated. Believe in your ability and listen to your coaches. Be prepared to have a go and don't look back and think what could have been. Football is a short life, so make the most of it while you've got the chance because you never know when it could be over.

Thanks for spending time with Goal! Weekly and best of luck with the rest of the season.



different Heidelberg side. If anyone saw the first hour of our game against Fawkner last week, we should have been up about 3 or 4 nil by half-time. I think the Fawkner coach would have been happy to come away with a point. There are some good signs. It's just a matter of the boys getting some confidence and believing in their ability and putting in the hard yards on the park.

What sort of expectations have you got for the boys this year?

Obviously, being new back into the coaching game I haven't had a chance to see all the sides, so in terms of the overall picture I can't really make too much of a comment. But let's be fair, the Top Six shouldn't be unrealistic for a club like Heidelberg. I've seen some very good work by these boys over sixty-five minutes on the weekend and if we can do that for a full ninety-minutes then it wouldn't bother me who we played against because I think we'd do quite well.

What did you find were the main differences in football between England and Australia?

I found that after dealing with players in the

ESALA MASI

OAKLEIGH CANNONS FC



FULL NAME: Esala Masi
BIRTHPLACE: BA, Fiji
BIRTH DATE: 09/03/1974
HEIGHT: 186cms
WEIGHT: 80 Kg
MARRIED: Narrelle Sellers
LIVES: Private
CAR: Ford Telsar
OCCUPATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL: Flooring
NICKNAME: None
PREVIOUS CLUBS: BA FC Fiji, Gippsland Falcons (VIC), Rochdale Rovers (QLD), Wollongong Wolves (NSW), Canterbury Marrickville (NSW), Newcastle United (NSW), Sydney Olympic (NSW)
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Fiji International
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Pele
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Ronaldinho
FAVOURITE V-LEAGUE PLAYER: Juan Nilo (Oakleigh Cannons)
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Graham Arnold
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Lucas Neil
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Wollongong Wolves Vs Carlton in the 1999-2000 NSL Major Final. Scored a goal and set up the other for a 2-1 Win.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: World Cup Play-Off between the Socceroos and Iran at the MCG.
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: The one against Australia in the Confederation Cup in Brisbane
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Too many to mention
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not making it to the VPL Grand Final last season
WORST INJURY: Fractured ankle

FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: All
SUPERSTITIONS: None
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Crumbed chicken and salad sandwich
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Speed, Aerial Contest
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Snickers
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Manchester United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Volley ball, fishing etc.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Tiger Woods
FAVOURITE FOODS: Fried fish in coconut cream with taro
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Will Smith / Julia Roberts
HOBBIES: Woodwork, gardening
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: The Outrigger Reef Resort, Fiji
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Home
IDEAL DATE: My wife
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: CSI, Overhaulin
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Reggae
FAVOURITE FILM: Too many to mention
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Manchester United
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: None
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Family
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Soccer Hoologans

FOOTBALL AMBITION: Keep playing and scoring goals for as long as my body allows me
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Tiger Woods
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S V-LEAGUE: Oakleigh Cannons all the way

GOAL!
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This week's line-up

Soccer Hotlines	3
Foxtel Cup Details Page	4
Knights v Royals	5
SWE v Suburbs	6
Magic v Bergers	9
Fawkner v South	11
Cannons v Gully	12
Lions v Eagles	13
Zebras v Kingston	15
Division One	17
WPL	18
Katsa's Korner	19
Boo's World	20
Succeroo: Pom's Home View	21
Football Focus	23

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MATILDAS CAPTAIN FIRST AUSSIE TO SCORE FOR FIFA XI

Matildas captain Cheryl Salisbury became the first Australian to score for a FIFA XI when she netted for the FIFA Women's World Stars against China in Wuhan on Saturday night (AEST) in a match played ahead of the draw for the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup.

China won the match 3-2 with a goal in the final minute after Australia's most capped male or female international had drawn the two team's level at 2-2 three minutes before half time. The 33-year-old Salisbury heading in from close range converting a free-kick played into the penalty area by Brazil-

ian Daniela.

The match was also significant for Tammy Ogston who became the first Australian to referee a FIFA World Stars match.

The draw for the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup will take place in Wuhan, China over-night. The draw is expected to be completed by 10pm AEST with fifa.com to provide up-dated information.

The Matildas, now ranked 14th in the world, qualified for the World Cup courtesy of finishing runners-up at last year's AFC Women's Asian Cup in Adelaide after losing the final on penalties against China.

Seeded teams for tomorrow's draw are hosts China, reigning champions Germany, world number one ranked nation USA and Norway who are ranked third in the world. The other nations to have qualified are Australia, DPR Korea, Japan (Asia), Sweden, Denmark, England (Europe), Nigeria, Ghana (Africa), Canada (North and Central America and the Caribbean), Argentina, Brazil (South America) and New Zealand (Oceania).

The 16-nation tournament will be held in the cities of Chengdu, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Tianjin and Wuhan, September 10-30.

SOCCEROOS V ARGIES RE-SCHEDULED

Football Federation Australia today announced that it had agreed to the Argentinean Football Association's request to re-schedule the international match with the Qantas Socceroos which had been confirmed for the MCG on 6 June.

Argentina made the request due to concerns that as a result of other match commitments in Europe (made subsequent to their committing to the match in Australia) they would be unable to bring their top players nor have sufficient preparation for the match on June 6. FFA is committed to hosting only a full strength Argentina team in Melbourne.

"We have been in discussions with the Argentinean Football Association President Mr. Julio Grondona and we agreed it would be in the best interests of both teams and Australian football supporters to postpone the match to later this year and we expect to confirm the new match date within the next week or so," said FFA CEO Mr. Ben Buckley.



"We share our fans disappointment about re-

scheduling the match, but we hope that they will accept that a postponement was necessary so that we will see a full strength Argentina."



"Representatives from the FFA will be meeting with officials from the AFA and their match agents early next week to finalise the revised match date."

FFA advises fans who have already purchased tickets to retain them as they will be valid for the re-scheduled date. Refunds will also be available for those who are unable to attend and refund arrangements will be announced once the re-scheduled match date is confirmed.

"At this stage it appears unlikely that we will have another match in Australia in June which means that the World Cup qualifying re-match against Uruguay at Telstra Stadium on 2 June will be the only chance to farewell the team ahead of the Asian Cup," added Mr Buckley.



Argentine star Herman Crespo will have to wait a bit longer before he can torment the Socceroos' defense.

SOCCEROOS UPCOMING MATCHES

Australia vs. Uruguay
Saturday 2 June 2007, 8.00pm
Telstra Stadium, Sydney
Tickets on sale now from Ticketek outlets,
PH 132 849 or online at www.ticketek.com.au

Singapore vs. Australia
Saturday 30 June 2007, 7.30pm
National Stadium, Singapore
Australia vs. Argentina
TBC
MCG, Melbourne

AUSTRALIA'S AFC ASIAN CUP DRAW

Group Stage
Australia vs. Oman
Sunday 8 July 2007, 5.20pm
Rajamangala National Stadium, Bangkok

Australia vs. Iraq
Friday 13 July 2007, 5.20pm
Rajamangala National Stadium, Bangkok

Australia vs. Thailand
Monday 16 July 2007, 7.35pm
Rajamangala National Stadium, Bangkok

FFV FORCES SOUTH TO FORFEIT

The Round 6 Foxtel Cup clash between South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights was declared a forfeit result by the FFV after the home side failed to comply to a number of security requirements.

In a statement released by South Melbourne last week it indicated the Bob Jane club was disappointed with the decision of the FFV and the handing of a 0-3 result to the Knights.

The statement also said that SMFC acted on the advice from Victoria Police and elected to a limit entry to the match for South Melbourne FC members only. The advice from Victoria Police was based on the incidents which took place at the Australian Tennis Open and the FINA World Swimming Championships together with previous incidents involving the Melbourne Knights.

According to SMFC the arrangements for a member only game were deemed unacceptable by the FFV who wanted to impose alternative security arrangements for the fixture. The FFV insisted that the game be open to all fans which would have required 30 police, 25 security guards and 6 ground marshals at the game.

SMFC disagreed with proposal as it would

have required the club to bear the cost of the security arrangements. South Melbourne FC found the requirements of the FFV to be unreasonable. The club also said that apart from the costs of such arrangements, the FFV was not prepared to indemnify the club against any incident or fall out from the match. As result of the FFV not being able to provide indemnity for the fixture to SMFC, the club was left with no option but to reject the proposed security arrangements in order to safeguard the interests of the club. The security arrangements proposed by SMFC, for a members only game, were consistent with previous FFV directives "for high risk matches". Such a policy has been successful over the previous 2 years and was favourably looked upon and the preferred option of Victoria Police due to the efficient resource allocation and reduced risk.

South Melbourne FC is the manager of Bob Jane Stadium and any security arrangements for the ground are the responsibility of the club. The club has the legal responsibility for the Stadium and for the safety of the patrons, as do other Victorian Premier League Clubs with their grounds. South Melbourne FC announced it wished to

act responsibly and is committed to promoting the safety and enjoyment of participants and spectators at the venue.

South Melbourne FC is not agreeable to any external parties either directly or indirectly controlling the venue or arrangements at the venue without having legal recourse against that party. South Melbourne FC has decided to take proactive measures ensuring that they are not the focal point of other parties' indiscretions. South Melbourne FC will be vigorously challenging the FFV decision to forfeit the above mentioned game and is currently seeking legal advice in relation to appropriate legal action to be taken.



SCOREBOARD

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Oakleigh Cannons FC	7	4	3	0	16	7	15
Preston Lions SC	7	4	2	1	16	7	11
Green Gully Cavaliers SC	7	3	2	2	11	9	11
Essendon Royals SC	7	3	2	2	9	9	11
Altona Magic SC	7	2	4	1	11	8	10
Melbourne Knights SC	7	2	4	1	8	6	10
A.I.S	7	3	1	3	9	8	10
Richmond SC	7	3	1	3	13	13	10
Fawkner Blues SC	7	2	3	2	6	5	9
South Melbourne FC	7	2	3	2	9	10	9
Heidelberg United SC	7	2	2	3	8	13	8
Kingston City FC	6	2	1	3	8	11	7
Sunshine Georgies SC	7	1	4	2	7	10	7
Springvale White Eagles SC	7	1	2	4	6	11	5
Whittlesea Zebras	6	1	2	3	5	10	5
Western Suburbs SC	7	0	4	3	4	9	4

The Top Marksmen

- Masi, Esala
Oakleigh Cannons
7 goals
- Georgioski, Blaze
Preston Lions]
- 6 goals
- Pelikan, Anthony
Oakleigh Cannons
5 goals
- Diaco, Ricky
South Melbourne
4 goals
- Nilo, Juan
Oakleigh Cannons
4 goals
- Pilic, David
Fawkner Blues
4 goals
- Becvinovski, Saso
Altona Magic
3 goals
- Curcija, Michael
Altona Magic
3 goals
- Siveski, Pece
Preston Lions
3 goals
- Sulemani, Xhezair
Richmond
3 goals
- Trpceviski, Vasko
Sunshine Georgies
3 goals
- Vulic, Antun
Kingston City
3 goals
- Zoric, Goran
Springvale White
Eagles
3 goals

RESULTS

- Oakleigh Cannons 2 - 2 Green Gully Cavaliers
- Springvale White Eagles 3 - 1 Western Suburbs
- Altona Magic 1 - 2 Heidelberg United
- Fawkner Blues 0 - 0 South Melbourne
- Melbourne Knights 1 - 1 Essendon Royals
- AIS 2 - 0 Sunshine Georgies
- Preston Lions 4 - 1 Richmond Eagles
- Whittlesea Zebras 0 - 0 Kingston City

ROUND FIVE FIXTURES

- Richmond Eagles v
Oakleigh Cannons
Kevin Bartlett Res
Friday 27 April
8:15PM
- Kingston City v
Preston Lions
Kingston Heath
Soccer Complex
Sunday 29 April
3:00PM
- Essendon Royals v
Fawkner Blues
Veneto Social Club
Friday 27 April
8:15PM
- South Melbourne v
Altona Magic
Bob Jane Stadium
Sunday 29 April
4:30PM
- Sunshine Georgies
v
Springvale White
Eagles
Chaplin Reserve
Sunday 29 April
3:00PM
- Green Gully
v
Melbourne Knights
Green Gully Res
Sunday 29 April
6:00PM
- Western Suburbs v
Whittlesea Zebras
Ralph Reserve
Sunday 29 April
3:00PM
- Heidelberg United v
A.I.S
Olympic Village
Sunday 29 April
6:00PM

RESERVE DETAILS

Oakleigh Cannons 2 Green Gully Cavaliers 1, Springvale White Eagles 1 Western Suburbs 1, Altona Magic 2 Heidelberg United 3, Fawkner Blues 2 South Melbourne 0, Melbourne Knights 3 Essendon Royals 1, V.I.S 1 Sunshine Georgies 2, Preston Lions 1 Richmond 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Springvale White Eagles SC	7	6	1	0	15	4	19
Melbourne Knights SC	7	5	2	0	16	3	17
Oakleigh Cannons FC	7	5	0	2	18	10	15
Heidelberg United SC	7	5	0	2	12	12	15
Green Gully Cavaliers SC	7	4	1	2	15	9	13
Western Suburbs SC	7	3	1	3	12	10	10
Sunshine Georgies SC	7	3	1	3	14	13	10
Richmond SC	7	3	1	3	11	12	10
Fawkner Blues SC	7	3	1	3	10	13	10
Whittlesea Zebras	6	3	0	3	14	11	9
V.I.S	7	2	2	3	8	9	8
Essendon Royals SC	7	2	1	4	10	15	7

SOME MOMENTS REQUIRE THE BEST



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MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS

1 - 1

ESSENDON
ROYALSBy Josip Loncaric
Photos by Steve Starek

SUTALO FRUSTRATES HOME SIDE

Former Knight proves the point at Somers Street

An entertaining match between the Melbourne Knights and the Essendon Royals ended all square at Knights Stadium. Unlike in previous rounds, a good opening period from Knights saw the home side passing and moving well on a much-improved pitch, which seems to be recovering well after some problems.

The home side's first half onslaught began in the eighth minute when Hrvoje Matkovic had a shot well saved by Royals keeper Marko Sutalo, after a corner rebounded into the Knights midfielders path.

A minute later Knights midfielder Mate Dugandzic firstly earned and then took a free kick near the opposition corner flag. Dugandzic's cross found an unmarked Neven Antic, whose close range header was impressively saved by Sutalo.

The best passage of play in the first half should have resulted in an opening goal for the home side in the 16th minute. Veteran Joe Spiteri made solid run down the right side of the pitch and his cut back for oncoming Knights midfielder Alex Kiratzoglou was perfect. With the goal at his mercy, Kiratzoglou's goal bound effort forced Sutalo into a brilliant reflex save from point blank range to keep the Knights at bay.

Impressive midfielder Hrvoje Matkovic was next to try his luck with a free kick from 25 yards out, but his effort curled wide

of the goal.

It took the visitors until the 31st minute to create an opportunity, but when they did, they should have opened the scoring. A Knights corner was cleared towards forward Frank Lagana, who controlled the ball brilliantly before turning both Knights skipper Tommy Milardovic and Matkovic on route to goal.

Only a spectacular save by Knights keeper Adrian Cagalj kept the striker out, but his dive left the keeper limping and forced Knights coach Chris Taylor into an unexpected substitution. Cagalj limped off with a hamstring strain and was replaced by substitute keeper Daniel Zilic.

The Knights responded with a 33rd minute strike by Mate Dugandzic from approximately 25 yards, which was once again comfortably saved by Sutalo.

Two minutes later the Knights had another quality chance from a free kick whipped in by Kiratzoglou. The ball travelled through to Spiteri, who missed a golden opportunity with his head from inside the six-yard box.

With the match heading towards a half-time stalemate, the Knights struck right on the 45 minute mark. A good cutback by Kiratzoglou was aimed for Spiteri, who tried an outrageous back heel to beat Sutalo. The loose ball fell to Matkovic, who lifted the

ball into the roof of the net before running to embrace the delighted crowd.

Referee Bruno D'Aniello booked the Knights midfielder for his over exuberant celebrations, but the Knights cared little, as they went into the break a goal to the good.

The second period failed to live up to the excitement of the first half, but it was again the Knights who were keen on attacking, whilst Gary Goenwald's Royals still persisted with their counter attacking defensive style.

A shock counter attack by the Royals in the 49th stunned the 1,500 or so predominantly Knights supporters, who saw their side pegged back on level terms completely against the run of play.

A penetrating run by Royals midfielder Michael Catalano saw the youngster provide an excellent cross, which caught Milardovic and Zilic napping in the Knights defence. The Knights indecisiveness allowed Frank Lagana to calmly volley home the equaliser for the Royals.

With the goal coming against the run of play, Chris Taylor reshuffled his troops and the move almost immediately paid dividends in the 56th minute. A cross by Matkovic fell to Craig Elvin, whose scuffed shot fell to Kiratzoglou, but his cheeky back heel hit Sutalo's post and was cleared to safety by

the Royals defence.

Long ranged efforts from Matkovic and Stefan Piorkowski failed to trouble an inspired Sutalo, who was hell bent on leaving Knights stadium with a share of the points.

Substitute Ivan Franjic put in a 79th minute cross for Spiteri but his volley was hit tamely into Sutalo's arms.

A few minutes later Spiteri returned the favour when he crossed to Franjic, whose header was cut back to fellow substitute Serkan Oksuz. The striker returning from a five-week knee injury tapped in from an offside position and the goal was rightfully disallowed.

The final chance of the match fell in the 89th minute for Oksuz, who failed to latch onto an inch-perfect pass by Steve Iosifidis, and the match ended all square.

Essendon had Sutalo to thank for their point, and also Frank Lagana and Joseph Youssef, who battled hard throughout the match. For the Knights, Neven Antic was solid at the back, and Hrvoje Matkovic and Joe Spiteri were the main attacking threats.

Man of the match:

Marko Sutalo (Essendon Royals).



Man of the match Marko Sutalo thwarts another attempt on his goal at a ground he knows only too well.



Essendon Royals' Harris Vrbovak spoils a run down the wing Knights' Craig Elvin.



SPRINGVALE
WHITE EAGLES

3 - 1



WESTERN
SUBURBS

By Teo Pellizzeri
Photos by John Punshon

WHITE EAGLES OPENS '07 ACCOUNT

3 Goal opening blast settles battle of the new boys

Springvale have won their first game of the 2007 Foxtel Cup season, beating the only remaining winless team Western Suburbs 3-1 at Keysborough.

An explosive start saw Springvale three goals to go the good within half an hour, livewire Goran Zoric helping himself to a double, then laying off a third for Nikolas Papadopoulos. Western Suburbs pegged back one goal through Laurence Kidtner, but failed to capitalise of a second half they controlled.

Goran Zoric's opener came in the 14th minute when a misdirected Igor Arsovski cross from the left flank fell kindly at his feet 10 yards from goal. The striker finished coolly from 10 yards with his right foot. In the 19th minute the lead was doubled when a Vladan Zoric corner was tipped by Wests goalkeeper Stj-

epan Gal into a big pack, the first deflection falling favourably for Goran Zoric again, who headed home for 2-0. Then Zoric nicely laid off Springvale's third for Nikolas Papadopoulos, who dribbled into the box and smashed a left footed shot into the top of the net from 12 yards in the 28th minute.

Western Suburbs were stung into action, and won a penalty in the 37th minute when John Cvetanovski was fouled by first half substitute Nemanja Samardzic. However Jaymes Stefannou hit his spot kick at a saveable height to the right of Springvale goalkeeper Nik Roganovic, who guessed correctly and parried the shot away. In the 40th minute the mistake was avenged when a Billy Sianides shot was tipped into the path of Laurence Kidtner, who rolled in the first goal for Western Suburbs.

In the first twenty minutes of the second half Western Suburbs failed to make the most of their most dominant period of possession, a speculative effort from Ricky Castro out on the left wing the closest they came to scoring. Castro's outlandish drive from 30 yards out on the touchline dipped into the crossbar and bounced away from danger.

Despite a ringing of the changes on the bench, including the injection of promising young striker Igor Khrapko, and controlling the territory for the remainder of the game, Western Suburbs couldn't trouble the impressive Roganovic. In the 69th minute Kidtner squared for a central Khrapko, but his shot was saved low to the left by the Springvale keeper, who must have seen the ball late through a big crowd of players.

"When you're looking to win you

can get nervous, even at 3-0" said Springvale coach Zoran Trajceski after the match.

"But we created a lot of chances. We've got our first win of the season and hopefully there's going to be more. In our games we've been very close, didn't get a lot of luck, but definitely now we're looking better. "[Nik Roganovic] has been doing great, excellent, he's working very hard in training. But he's got to keep his temper!"

Springvale's win sees them move level with Whittlesea on goal difference in 13th position on the Foxtel Cup table, while Western Suburbs are stuck in last place with no wins and four points from their opening seven matches.

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ALTONA
MAGIC

1 - 2

HEIDELBERG
WARRIORSBy Reuben Schembri
Photos by Daniel Flis

BERGERS CRUCIAL AWAY WIN PUTS A DAMPENER ON THE MAGIC

Hodgson and his troops return to winning ways

On a quite rainy and cold night at Paisley Park and in front of a more than respectable crowd, Heidelberg United and Altona Magic put on a creditable game

The game for the first half-hour was predominately a feeling out process with the Bergers taking the best of the early exchanges. This being said, Pasi Shwalger in the Berger goal was tested a few times and had his post rattled on one occasion. The complexion of the game changed when, from a quick counter attack the ball was distributed into the Heidelberg attacking penalty area and Nick Marinos was bundled over in a tackle that probably was marginally late. The referee was convinced that a foul had been committed and duly pointed to the penalty spot much to the chagrin of the Magic defenders.

Nicholas Marinos dusted himself off and coolly sent the ball to the left side of Bojo Jevdjovic in the Altona goals to give the Bergers the lead just on the 35th minute. Altona went in search of the reply but the Berger defense, lead admirably by Robert Liparoti and Daniel Jones, had pretty much subdued the immense threat of the Magic attacking duo of Micheal Curcija and Sash Becvinovski. As it looked like the penalty would be the only goal of the first stanza up popped the prolific Delev who scored with the last action of the first half to give Altona a big boost going into the break and equalizing the scores at one goal apiece.

In the second-half despite a couple of significant rain showers, was a pretty open affair with both teams plugging away in search of the breakthrough that would ultimately decide the game. This breakthrough would come for the visitors when a raid down the left which involved Heidelberg midfielder, Jim Drossos, amongst others, saw the ball slide through to captain Andy Vlahos who dispatched the ball beyond Jedjevic to sent the traveling Berger fans into delirium. A goal with some controversy as Altona were convinced that Vlahos was in an offside position.

Altona will not be happy with this result and it is one which could well put some pressure of their coach, Vlado Torteovski, who has only gained two points out of a possible nine in the past three rounds, this including games against Western Suburbs and Sunshine Georgies, who they would have expected to get results against. For Heidelberg's recently hired coach, Doug Hodgson, it appears that his influence is starting to have a positive impact upon his team.

Next week Altona Magic travel to Bob Jane Stadium to face South Melbourne for a game that will be vital for the Paisley Park outfit to get its season back track. Heidelberg United host the AIS at the Olympic Village in a game they would see as a must win to continue its climb up the Foxtel Cup ladder.



Heidelberg's George Goutzioulis in action on Saturday night



Magic 'keeper Bojo Jevdjovic disputes the penalty awarded to the Bergers



Berger midfielder Jim Drossos contests the ball



AIS

0 - 2

SUNSHINE
GEORGIESBy Reuben Schembri
Photos by Daniel Flis

GEORGIES COP A LESSON FROM APPRENTICES

AIS proves too good and moves further up the table

On a day when the Melbourne weather cleared it was the visiting youngsters from the Australian Institute of Sport who lit up the day with an assured performance which thoroughly tested and got the better of a very poor Sunshine Georgies side.

From the kick-off it was evident the AIS would play a high tempo quick passing game and take it right up to their opponents. Sunshine were not able to adjust to this style of play and early in the game were stretched by the quick passing and work off the ball by their younger opponents.

After about 10 minutes the AIS hopelessly exposed the Sunshine defense and it left Isaka Cernak face to face with 'keeper Martin John and the youngster coolly opened the scoring. The AIS tried to build on their lead and were constantly attacking in search of more. Their late runs into the Sunshine penalty area were causing all sorts of headaches for the home defense. Sunshine through Anthony Magnacca and Alphonso Opazo had guilt edged chances before the break to restore parity, but these were spurned and at the half it was a fairly comfortable lead for the Institute.

During the break the Sunshine coach, Joe Montemurro, read his players the riot act telling them in no uncertain terms that he expected a lot better from them in the second-half and early on it seemed they had heeded his words. Sunshine began to exert some influence not seen in the game and create chances. They were rewarded when Vasko Trpceviski who had just come on the field a minute or so earlier was upended inside the box. The referee pointed to the spot.

Up stepped Anthony Magnacca who hit the resultant kick to his left and onto the post and away the ball went.

This only seemed to give the AIS a lift and they went streaming forward constantly putting the Sunshine defense under pressure and eventually it was rewarded when one of their raids saw a decisive through ball played through. A composed finish was applied, much to the pleasure of the AIS lads and it seemed that the game was theirs.

To make matters worse for Sunshine, prized recruit and Adelaide United bout Jonas Salley went down and after being treated for some minutes was taken off the ground. Sunshine having used their permitted three subs played out the game a man short.

The AIS will be well pleased with the way they constructed a game plan and with the ruthless and efficiency in which it was delivered. If these kids are the new breed of Australian football then we're in pretty decent hands as the future promises to be a bright one. Sunshine on the other hand, were nothing short of disappointing. They seemed to have no structure about them and were ill equipped to counter the moves the youngsters made.

Next week sees the AIS visit the Olympic Village to take on the Bergers in what should prove to be a very exciting game. Sunshine entertain Springvale White Eagles who will be buoyed after having registered their first win of the season on Saturday night. This game will be vital to both team's hopes of staying in the Foxtel Cup beyond this season.



Mullen celebrates with team-mates.



Australian Institute of Sport youngster, Matthew Mullen, bags the opening goal against the Georgies yesterday afternoon.



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From S1-S30:
Socceroos Logo, John Aloisi, Michael Beauchamp, Marco Bresciano, Tim Cahill, Scott Chipperfield, Ante Covic, Jason Culina, Bet Emerton, Vince Grella, Zeliko Kalac, Josh Kennedy, Harry Kewell, Stan Lazaridis, Mark Milligan, Craig Moore, Lucas Neill, Tony Popovic, Mark Schwarzer, Josip Skoko, Mile Sterjovski, Archie Thompson, Mark Viduka, Luke Wilkshire, Mark Schwarzer (Goal save against Uruguay), Tim Cahill (1st Goal against Japan), Tim Cahill (2nd Goal against Japan), John Aloisi, (Goal Against Japan), Craig Moore (Goal Against Croatia) Harry Kewell (Goal Against Croatia) A League Logo Foil Cards(8): \$8/each Adelaide, Central Coast, Melbourne, Newcastle, New Zealand, Perth, QLD, Sydney.

A League Signature Cards (8):

A1: Travis Dodd (Ade.)	\$50
A2: John Hutchinson (C. Coast)	\$50
A3: Archie Thompson (Melb.)	\$90
A4: Nick Carle (Newcastle)	\$65
A5: Noah Hickey (NZ)	\$50
A6: Stan Lazaridis (Perth)	\$65
A7: Chad Gibson (QLD)	\$50
A8: David Carney (Sydney)	\$50
Mark Viduka Signature (150 only): NA Case Card (1)	\$60
2006 A-League Champions	
Only 350 numbered cards released.	

2006 GERMANY WORLD CUP SOCCER TRADING CARDS

The "2006 FIFA World Cup Soccer" Trading cards include action shots of the best footballers in the world. 20 Superstars cards are METALIZED FOIL CARDS. To crown this overwhelming event, 36 LOSSY FOIL CARDS are also included focusing on the National Teams Shots or Flags and FIFA World Cup Emblem, Mascot and trophy.



FAWKNER
BLUES

0 - 0

SOUTH
MELBOURNE FC

By Richard Bartolo
Photos by Daniel Flis

TILOVSKI EARNs POINT FOR THE BLUES

All square between the battle of the blues at CB Smith

South Melbourne travelled to CB Smith Reserve for the first time to face the Fawknor Blues in round 7 of the Foxtel Cup. The Blues were missing Robert Bresciano after getting his marching orders last week against Heidelberg, while South were eager to get back on the park after forfeit their last game to Melbourne Knights.

South did not lose any time and started the game, with one thing on their mind, to find the back of the net. It only took the first five minutes for South's first opportunity to open the score with Nathan Caldwell miss hitting his shot in the 6 yard box and allowing the Blues defence to clear. South where the first team to settle and they got their rhythm going with long passes and spreading the ball wide, they even where creating the lose man, which the Blues found hard to control. In the 10th minute Ricky Diaco tried his luck from outside the box only to see his shot go over the bar. Fawknor, started to get into the game themselves with long passes down the wings and deep crosses, but South's defence stood firm. On the 20th mark, Danny Madarovski flicked the ball into the path of Jason Principato only to see his shot over the bar. Fawknor started to grow in confidence and started to create some good chances, through the hard work of midfielders Pilic and Madarovski. On the 30th minute free kick taken by Pilic only to see south's keeper palm away for a throw in. The Blues continued to press forward and should have taken the lead on the 38th minute when Principato delivered a

perfect pass to Pilic, which Pilic turned his marker only to shoot wide of the post.

The second half started as the first with both teams working hard in the middle of the park and it was a matter of time which midfield takes control. South started to dominate and pushing men forward to try and break the dead lock, but the Blues back four were holding firm. The Blues replaced Metin Alibeyi for Mark Tsiorlas in the 52 minute and tried to get back into the game, but South's pressure was too much and the Blues where just clearing the ball away from their goals.

Last 15 minutes South could have taken the lead on several occasions. Daico released Caldwell in the 18 yard box only to see his shot going wide. De Nittis was brought on, in the 58 minute and immediately had an impact, forcing Steve Tilovski into a brilliant save. South kept on pressing forward and the Blues defence was working overtime. De vito for South found Diaco only for Vazzochi to release the pressure off the Blues.

The best chance of the half fell to Caldwell, when the Blues keeper was out of goal, ball rebounded off a Blues defender and the ball fell into the path of Caldwell, with an open goal, he shot wide. Fawknor would have been relieved to hear the final whistle, while South will be wondering how they did not take all 3 points.



Fawknor's David Pilic storms through the South midfield



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2006 Select A-LEAGUE Collector Cards

Released by Select, Nov, 2006.
Only 4000 boxes released.
This series is the FIRST Australia Soccer Trading Cards ever produced since 1994. The high quality, limited release will enhance the collectability of this Inaugural Select A-League trading cards series. Retail: \$3.95 per pack.
8 cards /pack, 32 packs/box. 100 base card in the set. At least 1 base set in the box; 1 A League signature cards per box.

Subset:

1. 2006 Qantas Socceroos (30): 1 per 4 packs; featured the 2006 World Cup Socceroos' full squad.
2. 2006 A League Logos (8): 1 : 8 packs;
3. A League Signature Cards (8): 1: 28 packs;

4. Mark Viduka Tribute Signature (150 cards only): 1 per 850 packs.
Factory Box (32 packs) \$125

Official A League Album (No pages)\$20
Base Set (100) \$40
100 base card in the set featuring the A League Hometown heroes and bright young talents.

SUBSET:

2006 QANTAS Socceroos (30): from \$5-\$10 each. Full Set (30): \$140
This socceroos collection focus on the historic 2006 World Cup Socceroos full squad. Highly collectable.
Socceroos Set (30): \$140/set



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Fawknor's David Pilic storms through the South midfield



OAKLEIGH
CANNONS

2 - 2



GREEN GULLY
CAVALIERS

By Reuben Schembri
Photos by Daniel Flis

MAGIC JUAN WORKS WONDERS IN THE BOX

Championship heavyweights share the spoils at Jack's place

Oakleigh Cannons conjured up a Houdini-like escape in the face of certain defeat, when striker Juan Nilo's injury time goal leveled the scores 2-2 against visitors Green Gully on Friday night.

As has been their wont all season, the Cannons again conceded a head start to the visiting team, when Gully defender Dean Fak opened the scoring in the 17th minute with a far post header from an Andy Vargas cross. The goal followed a couple of early chances to Oakleigh's Marcus Stergiopoulos and Sam Poutakidis.

Fak's goal then sparked a 15 minute spell of sustained Cannon fire on the Gully goal, producing some excellent keeping from Gully's Ante Loncaric. At the other end, a lively Brandon Vassallo tested Cannon keeper Stuart Webster's concentration with a low curling shot from distance.

Gully coach Ian Dobson changed the shape of his attack at half time, playing Campbell Banks in a central striker role, with both Vassallo and substitute Matthew Sanders taking up advanced positions in the wide midfield areas in support of Banks.

At the other end, Gully's defense was keeping a tight rein on the league's leading scorer, Esala Masi. However, Masi's strikepartner Nilo was finding more and more of the ball, and on 57 minutes, with the ball at his feet inside the penalty area, Nilo turned sharply under Fak's challenge to win a penalty for the homeside. Antun Pelikan converted the spot kick to equalize, but Gully were soon back in front, when a clever Vassallo back header opened up the Cannon's defense allowing Sanders to run onto the ball and finish first time, in the 62nd minute.

The Cannons were finding a well organised Gully difficult to breakdown, the closest chance being a Pelikan shot from distance which skimmed the top of the crossbar.

A late flurry of chances to both sides resulted in the Cannons finding an equalizer in the 92nd minute. An overlapping Pelikan cut inside from the right flank to shoot at goal. His strike rebounded to substitute Varessa Toma who also had a dig. Toma's shot found its way to Juan Nilo with his back to goal. The striker converted his opportunity with a clever back-heel, to secure a point for Oakleigh and extend their unbeaten start to eight games.

Cannons coach Stuart Munro said after the game, "I think overall we gave away two points tonight. The second goal, we were sloppy defending it. When their boy was played in, I just felt the right fullback position was too wide, and wasn't tucked in to give us enough cover. I thought that in the first half, their goalkeeper was magnificent saving countless amounts of effort...Second half we pinned them back, but they're always going to be a threat with the experienced players that they've got."

Gully coach Ian Dobson rated his team's performance as one of their best so far this season. "Oakleigh are a very strong physical team. And they've got a good strike force in Nilo, Masi and Pelikan who are obviously capable of scoring. But I thought the team defended as a unit. The signs are good. We're still trying to get things organized. We've changed a lot of personnel this year. Our best two performances have actually been on surfaces that have been reasonable flat, which was 1-0 at Bob Jane and here tonight. Once the moisture comes back into the grounds and we're not playing on some of these very bumpy pitches, like we've got at green Gully, I think the team will actually improve."

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 2 – 2 GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS (HT 0-1) Friday 20th April Jack Edwards Reserve

GOALS: D.Fak (GG) 18th min, A.Pelikan (OC) 57th min, M.Sanders (GG) 63rd, J.Nilo (OC) 90th min.

YELLOW CARDS: M.Stergiopoulos (OC) 4th min, B.Vassallo (GG) 78th min, S.Poutakidis (OC) 83rd min, A.Loncaric (GG) 85th, M.Medjedovic (GG) 88th min.

Cannons: S.Webster, A.Ewin (C.Konstas 90th), M.Stergiopoulos, F.Rosman, F.Rosman, A.Pelikan, J.Nilo, E.Masi, B.Damianos, A.Kovacic (V.Toma 80th), S.Poutakidis, S.Webster.

Cavaliers: A.Loncaric, D.Fak, J.Flemming, C.Banks (J.Nikolic 75th), E.Pena (M.sanders 46th), E.Muscat, R.Ollerton, D.Nastevski, M.Medjedovic, A.Vargas (P.Riccobene 89th).



Cannons' Anthony Pelikan scores from the spot to level the match at 1-1.



A man of the match performance by Juan Nilo saved the day for the Cannons against a impressive Cavaliers.



PRESTON
LIONS

4 - 1



RICHMOND
EAGLES

By Simon McCuskey
Photos by John Punshon

THREE IN A ROW FOR THE DEN OF LIONS

Eagles torn apart by a pack of Lions

The Preston Lions came from a goal behind to defeat the Richmond Eagles by 4-1 in an entertaining Round 7 Foxtel Cup contest at B.T Connor Reserve. Semir Sivic handed the Eagles the lead in the 10th minute, but their lead was quickly cancelled out by Johnny Sapazovski on the half hour mark. With scores locked at 1-1 at the half time break, Preston completely ran over Richmond in the second half by adding three unanswered goals in an attacking game of football.

However, it was the Eagles that started the strongest out of the blocks, by creating the first genuine threat of the game in the third minute. Solomon Islander Henry Fa'arodo broke clear in midfield, weaved past Preston's two centre backs in Les Anastasiou and Izzy Erdogan, but could not do enough to beat the Lions keeper Lou Asceviski. The Soloman Islander international was instrumental in setting up Richmond's first goal, delivering a superb through ball to expose the Lion's defence on the right hand side to set up Semir Sivic who finished on this right foot with ease, gifting Richmond the lead in the tenth minute.

Despite holding the lead from the early stages, Preston began to find avenues back into the game. Veteran striker Nick Lazarevski could have levelled for the Lions in the 20th minute, but was undone by a challenge from Eagle defender Mark Kuck.

Preston's break came after half an hour, when left winger Tony Sterjovski's cross found an unmarked Johnny Sapazovski on the back post to tap the ball unchallenged into the back of the net. Preston could have extended their lead moments later. Midfielder Marinos Gasparis broke free down the right flank and fired in a cross across the face of goal which Tony Sterjovski just managed to connect to, but his shot only found side netting. Although scores were locked 1-1 at half time, Preston held the momentum going into the break.

Preston continued their momentum in the second half by snatching the lead only minutes after play re-commencing, courtesy of a Les Anastasiou long ball that found Nick Lazarevski in space along the right flank, which the veteran striker finished off. Lazarevski doubled his tally 15 minutes later thanks to some woeful Richmond defending. Under pressure in midfield, Eagles keeper Ivan Tomic was the recipient of a woeful back-pass intercepted by Lazarevski. Lazarevski swooped on the defensive error, fired the ball into Richmond's net and suddenly Preston were in the driving seat to collect all three points extending their lead by 3-1.

Richmond could have pegged goals back on two occasions, but to no avail. Noel Bahnson had a free header from a Shane Rexhepi cross which was tipped over the bar by Lou Acevski, whilst Joe Di Orio struck a shot from the six yard box on the right side which missed the back post by millimetres.

Preston, on the other hand struck gold with the additional chances they created. In form Blaze Georgioski pencilled in his name for a contender for goal of the year in the 85th minute, by spotting Richmond keeper Ivan Tomic off his line and lobbed a curling shot from left midfield, 30 yards out which extended Preston's lead to 4-1. John Sapasovski could have added a fifth for the Lions in the dying stages of the game when he latched onto a Tony Sterjovski cross, but Noel Bahnson acrobatically cleared the ball off the line to protect the damage Richmond had already incurred from the scoreboard.

Preston Coach Goran Lozanovski was delighted the way in which his team rebounded after being placed under pressure early on in the game, and singled out Pece Siveski's efforts in midfield due to the absence of Steven Pace through suspension and youngster Michael Miskas, who kept Henry Fa'arodo relatively quiet in the second half. Richmond coach Phil Stubbins was unavailable for comment.



WHITTLESEA
ZEBRAS

Vs

KINGSTON
CITYBy Paul Jefferies
Photos by John Punshon

CRUNCH NIGHT BECKONS AT EPPING

Zebras, City look to get seasons' back on track



The Round 7 Foxtel Cup clash between Whittlesea Zebras and Kingston City, tonight (KO 8.15pm) at Epping Stadium, brings together two sides eager to claim three valuable points and put their respective seasons back on track.

The newly formed Zebras will be looking to register a positive result after a string of indifferent performances of late. Last weekend the home side went down 2-0 to an ever improving Preston Lions outfit and is still looking for its first home win of the season. In the meantime, it will have to make do without the talented Josip Kozic, who misses the match after been shown the red card last week and automatically faces a one match suspension.

The visitors on the other hand, Kingston City, come into this encounter determined to record its first official away win of the season. It did manage to defeat the AIS 1-0 in Round 5, but even though it was an away match the fixture was played at Grange Reserve. Last weekend Kingston snatched a last-gasp point against the bottom side, Springvale White Eagles, when Nick Tolios grabbed an 92nd minute equalizer to leave itself in a precarious 12th position in the Foxtel Cup standings.

Of course, today's Kingston City outfit is a far cry from the one that made its debut in last season's competition. Dubbed "The Millionaire's Club" after securing the services of some high profile talent (Michael Cur-

cija, Joe Spiteri etc), the club has experience a major overhaul during the off season. Under new coach, Dean Hennessey, an assertive coach who is not afraid to develop and mould a squad based on youth, the current crop will do well if it can emulate last season's effort when it managed to qualify for a finals berth.

Similarly, Michael Michalakopoulos is also experiencing a type of transitional period of his own with the Whittlesea Zebras, as he too attempts to build a team under new surroundings after the merger of Whittlesea and Bulleen during the summer months.

Both coaches take pride in putting sides on the paddock that normally attempt to play a passing game with the ball on the deck. Tonight's match up should at least provide fans with a good quality hit-out. The fact that both teams are currently sitting in the lower reaches of the table should spice things up a bit, as either side would more than fancy itself pinching the points off one another.

The statistics indicate that both teams have the unenviable honour of being two of the leakiest defenses in the league (only Heidelberg has conceded more goals so far this season), therefore prepare yourself for some attractive football with plenty of practice for the shot-stoppers.

I fancy the Zebras to clinch its first home win of the season and I predict a scoreline 2-1.



Kingston City captain, Dimi Tsiaris, shields the ball in the corresponding clash last season.

FROM THE DUGOUT...

Michael Michalakopoulos Whittlesea Zebras

"It's definitely a crunch match for us on the back of a couple of disappointing results over the last few weeks. We could have easily had won two games and drawn one, instead we've lost two and drawn one, so we need to come out firing and actually hope to take the points this time around. It would be good to win on our home ground, which we haven't been able to do as yet."

Dean Hennessey Kingston City

"I think it's shaping up as a big game for both clubs. We're just two points in front of the Zebras and a win for them takes them above us, but if we get the result that we so desire and wish, it can pull us five points away from them and possibly put us a shade out of the top six. We've only got seven points, but our general form has been pretty good. We've got a young side and obviously a fairly new side, but we've got the confidence needed to go to places and win games."



THE LIKELY LADS...

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS

Ross Antoniadis, John Angelovski, Hamlet Armenian, Tony Alessandrino, Artjoms Butorins, Billy Celeski, Dario Di Napoli, Ari Drakos, Stelios Drakos, Adam Fedljevic, Kyriakos Gerihristodoulou, Josip Kozic (Suspended), Greg Lombardo, Steve Martin, Mark McGough, Dean Piemonte, Luca Santilli, Rob Santilli, James Sherman, Eric Vassiliadis.

KINGSTON CITY FC

Jim Latinopoulos, Yehya Dimassi, Andy Jerez, Adriano Chiapetta, Nicholas Stamatou, Fergal O'Colman, Alec Wilson, Michael Marrone, Anthony Jankovski, Nick Katsamboukas, George Papadopoulos, Antun Vulic, Peter koutsoupas, Nick Tolios, Dimi Tsiaras, Masumi Nishida, Barry Andrews, Paul Brown, Juan Sastre

	Whittlesea Zebras		Kingston
Recent form	HOME	D•D	W•L•D
	AWAY	W•L•L•L	L•L•W
Home win	0%		33%
Home draw	100%		33%
Home lost	0%		33%
Home goals	F3 - A3		F5 - A6
Away win	25%		33.3%
Away draw	0%		0%
Away lost	75%		66.6%
Away goals	F2 - A7		F3 - A5
Last season:	Zebras won 3-2		

ROUND ONE

Seniors	NORTH WEST 2	Reserves
Sunbury United 3 (V Ilerado 2, V Kalayci) Thomastown Devils 0 (HT: 2-0), Werribee City 0 Altona East Phoenix 0 (HT: 0-0), Williamstown 2 (B Pajic, V Babic) Lalor United 1 (G Risteski) (HT: 0-1), Yarraville Glory 0 Altona City 2 (J Little, C Cullen) (HT: 0-0), Moreland City 0 Keilor Park 3 (D Moore, A Galea, P Galea) (HT: 0-1), Pascoe Vale Maribyrnong Greens (HT: -)		
Altona East Phoenix SC	P W D L F A P T	
Keilor Park SC	2 1 1 0 4 0 4	
Altona City SC	2 1 1 0 4 2 4	
Williamstown SC	2 1 1 0 3 2 4	
Sunbury United SC	2 1 0 1 3 4 3	
Werribee City SC	1 0 1 0 0 0 1	
Moreland City SC	2 0 1 1 2 5 1	
Pascoe Vale SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Maribyrnong Greens SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Lalor United SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Yarraville Glory FC	1 0 0 1 0 2 0	
Thomastown Devils SC	1 0 0 1 0 3 0	
Moreland City SC	P W D L F A P T	
Altona City SC	2 1 1 0 4 0 4	
Werribee City SC	2 1 1 0 3 0 4	
Thomastown Devils SC	1 1 0 0 2 0 3	
Lalor United SC	1 1 0 0 1 0 3	
Keilor Park SC	2 1 0 1 3 4 3	
Sunbury United SC	2 0 1 1 2 3 1	
Altona East Phoenix SC	2 0 1 1 1 3 1	
Maribyrnong Greens SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Pascoe Vale SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Yarraville Glory FC	1 0 0 1 0 3 0	
Williamstown SC	2 0 0 2 0 4 0	

Seniors	NORTH WEST 3	Reserves
Corio 0 Banyule City 1 (K Vaskoski) (HT: 0-1), Geelong 0 Westvale 0 (HT: 0-0), Sydenham Park 1 (D Spiteri) Ballarat Soccer Club 2 (J Romein, S Digirolamo) (HT: 1-1), Cairnlea 1 (M Ali Beyi) Geelong Rangers 1 (D Corry) (HT: 1-0), La Trobe University 1 (D Mitric) Plenty Valley Lions 1 (HT: 0-1), Lalor Avondale Heights (HT: -)		
La Trobe University SC	P W D L F A P T	
Ballarat Soccer Club	2 1 1 0 3 2 4	
Banyule City SC	1 1 0 0 2 1 3	
Cairnlea FC	1 1 0 0 1 0 3	
Plenty Valley Lions FC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	
Westvale SC	1 0 1 0 0 0 1	
Geelong SC	1 0 1 0 0 0 1	
Geelong Rangers SC	2 0 1 1 2 3 1	
Lalor SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Avondale Heights SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Sydenham Park SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Corio SC	1 0 0 1 0 1 0	
La Trobe University SC	P W D L F A P T	
Sydenham Park SC	2 2 0 0 9 1 6	
Cairnlea FC	1 1 0 0 2 1 3	
Banyule City SC	1 1 0 0 2 1 3	
Geelong SC	1 1 0 0 1 0 3	
Avondale Heights SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Lalor SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Ballarat Soccer Club	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Corio SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Westvale SC	1 0 0 1 0 1 0	
Plenty Valley Lions FC	1 0 0 1 1 4 0	
Geelong Rangers SC	2 0 0 2 1 7 0	

Seniors	PROVI 1 NORTH WEST	Reserves
South Yarra 1 (PA McCluskey) Hume United 5 (D Robertson, J Barnientos, O Huwell, A Babo, I Cilek) (HT: 0-3), Melbourne City 2 (M Galvan) Darebin United 0 (HT: 0-0), Elwood City 0 Glenroy 2 (A Kranjinovic, T Grigio) (HT: 0-2), West Preston 0 Hoppers Crossing 1 (CA Muscat) (HT: 0-2), Laverton Park 3 (V De La Plaza, J Sobarzo, MA De La Plaza) Western Eagles 1 (HT: 1-0), Melbourne University Rangers 3 (A Kotsos, B Mitchell, PJ Grigg) North Sunshine Eagles 1 (G Muslia) (HT: 2-1)		
Hume United SC	P W D L F A P T	
Laverton Park SC	2 1 1 0 7 3 4	
Melbourne Uni Rangers SC	1 1 0 0 5 3 4	
Melbourne City SC	2 1 0 0 3 1 3	
Glenroy SC	1 1 0 0 2 0 3	
Hoppers Crossing SC	1 1 0 0 1 0 3	
West Preston SC	1 0 0 1 0 1 0	
Western Eagles SC	1 0 0 1 1 3 0	
North Sunshine Eagles SC	1 0 0 1 1 3 0	
Darebin United SC	1 0 0 1 0 2 0	
Elwood City SC	1 0 0 1 0 2 0	
South Yarra SC	1 0 0 1 1 5 0	
Melbourne Uni Rangers SC	P W D L F A P T	
South Yarra SC	1 1 0 0 3 0 3	
Darebin United SC	1 1 0 0 3 2 3	
Hume United SC	1 1 0 0 2 1 3	
West Preston SC	2 1 0 1 4 4 3	
Hoppers Crossing SC	1 0 1 0 2 2 1	
Western Eagles SC	1 0 1 0 2 2 1	
Elwood City SC	1 0 1 0 0 0 1	
Glenroy SC	1 0 1 0 0 0 1	
Laverton Park SC	2 0 1 1 2 3 1	
Melbourne City SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
North Sunshine Eagles SC	1 0 0 1 0 3 0	

Seniors	PROVI 2 NORTH WEST	Reserves
Melbourne Tornado 1 (D Luketic) Keon Park 3 (C Tsandefskis, S Gramadid 2) (HT: 1-1), Brimbank 1 (M Masemo) Whittlesea United 6 (S Mirik, T Altanham 5) (HT: 0-4), Moreland United 2 (A Napolitano, T Bayrakli) North City Lions 1 (D Grima) (HT: 2-0), Collingwood City 1 (M Parrington) Northern Falcons 1 (P Mazzeo) (HT: 0-0), Mill Park 1 Bell Park 4 (J Anastasopoulos, G Digiandomenico, H Mulayim, A Reed) (HT: 0-4), Uni. Of Melbourne Blues 1 (A Brown) Brimbank City 3 (M Sejrarnovic 3) (HT: 1-3)		
Bell Park SC	P W D L F A P T	
Whittlesea United SC	2 2 0 0 5 1 6	
Brimbank City SC	1 1 0 0 6 1 3	
Keon Park SC	1 1 0 0 3 1 3	
Moreland United SC	1 1 0 0 2 1 3	
Northern Falcons SC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	
Collingwood City SC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	
North City Lions SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Melbourne Tornado SC	1 0 0 1 1 3 0	
Mill Park SC	1 0 0 1 1 4 0	
Uni. Of Melbourne Blues	2 0 0 2 1 4 0	
Brimbank SC	1 0 0 1 1 6 0	
Bell Park SC	P W D L F A P T	
North City Lions SC	2 2 0 0 5 2 6	
Melbourne Tornado SC	1 1 0 0 4 0 3	
Brimbank SC	1 1 0 0 5 2 3	
Collingwood City SC	1 1 0 0 4 2 3	
Uni. Of Melbourne Blues	1 1 0 0 2 0 3	
Brimbank City SC	2 1 0 1 3 3 3	
Whittlesea United SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Mill Park SC	1 0 0 1 2 4 0	
Northern Falcons SC	1 0 0 1 1 3 0	
Keon Park SC	1 0 0 1 0 2 0	
Moreland United SC	1 0 0 1 2 5 0	

Seniors	PROVI 3 NORTH WEST	Reserves
Reservoir United 1 (S Patti) Melton 2 (S Agius, S Padon) (HT: 1-0), Ascot Vale 2 Epping City 4 (R Nerone 2, G Trajanoski, B Cowman) (HT: 0-4), Northern United 2 (M D Aloia, M Khalifa) Meadow Park 1 (A Chemali) (HT: 1-0), Brunswick Zebras SC 2 Hallam 2 (J Cluney 2) (HT: 0-1), Watsonia Heights 1 Essendon Utd 2 (HT: 0-1), Youth United Dallas Eagles (HT: -)		
Epping City SC	P W D L F A P T	
Melton SC	1 1 0 0 4 2 3	
Northern United SC	1 1 0 0 2 1 3	
Essendon United SC	1 1 0 0 2 1 3	
Brunswick Zebras SC	1 0 1 0 2 2 1	
Hallam SC	1 0 1 0 2 2 1	
Youth United SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Dallas Eagles	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Meadow Park SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Reservoir United SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Watsonia Heights SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Ascot Vale SC	1 0 0 1 2 4 0	
Ascot Vale SC	P W D L F A P T	
Watsonia Heights SC	1 1 0 0 2 0 3	
Hallam SC	1 1 0 0 1 0 3	
Meadow Park SC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	
Northern United SC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	
Brunswick Zebras SC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	
Reservoir United SC	1 0 1 0 0 0 1	
Melton SC	1 0 1 0 0 0 1	
Youth United SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Dallas Eagles	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Essendon United SC	1 0 0 1 1 0 0	
Epping City SC	1 0 0 1 0 2 0	

Seniors	SOUTH EAST 2	Reserves
Templestowe Eagles 1 (M Gulino) Heatherton United 1 (J Ash) (HT: 0-0), Stonnington City 0 Waverley Wanderers 0 (HT: 0-0), Chelsea 1 (S Matic) Clifton Hill United 2 (N Kyriopoulos, G Karkaletsis) (HT: 1-0), Knox City 1 (K Suat) Northcote City 1 (T Rixon) (HT: 1-1), South Springvale 0 Doncaster Rovers 1 (R Ardesi) (HT: 0-0), Diamond Valley United North Caulfield (HT: -)		
Northcote City SC	P W D L F A P T	
Clifton Hill United SC	2 1 1 0 3 1 4	
Doncaster Rovers SC	2 1 1 0 3 2 4	
Stonnington City SC	2 1 0 0 2 1 4	
Templestowe Eagles SC	2 0 2 0 1 1 2	
Heatherton United SC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	
Knox City SC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	
Diamond Valley United SC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	
Waverley Wanderers SC	1 0 1 0 0 0 1	
North Caulfield SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
South Springvale SC	1 0 0 1 0 1 0	
Chelsea SC	2 0 0 2 1 4 0	
Clifton Hill United SC	P W D L F A P T	
Doncaster Rovers SC	2 1 1 0 6 4 4	
Heatherton United SC	1 1 0 0 2 0 3	
Stonnington City SC	2 1 0 1 3 7 3	
Chelsea SC	2 0 2 0 2 2 2	
Northcote City SC	2 0 2 0 2 2 2	
Diamond Valley United SC	1 0 1 0 2 2 1	
Knox City SC	1 0 1 0 0 0 1	
North Caulfield SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
Waverley Wanderers SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
South Springvale SC	1 0 0 1 2 4 0	
Templestowe Eagles SC	1 0 0 1 0 2 0	

Seniors	SOUTH EAST 3	Reserves
Eastern Lions 2 (A Doughty, MJ O'Hare) Sandringham City 0 (HT: 1-0), Frankston Strikers 1 (M Moore) Endeavour United 0 (HT: 0-0), Springvale City Vales 4 (A Karic, D Rizvic, E Klancevic) Fitzroy City 1 (A Djordjevic) (HT: 2-0), Southern Suburbs 3 (R Nicovski, S Klidonas, J Rand) Nunawading City 1 (HT: 2-0), Morwell Pegasus 1 (F Albanese) Berwick City 3 (A Saunders, M Nitz, P Byrne) (HT: 0-2), Mooroolbark 2 (D McCandless, T Hardcastle) Doveton 1 (P Psarros) (HT: 1-1)		
Mooroolbark SC	P W D L F A P T	
Springvale City Vales SC	2 2 0 0 3 1 6	
Eastern Lions	1 1 0 0 4 1 3	
Berwick City SC	1 1 0 0 2 0 3	
Southern Suburbs SC	2 1 0 1 3 2 3	
Frankston Strikers SC	2 1 0 0 3 2 3	
Doveton SC	1 1 0 0 1 0 3	
Endeavour United SC	2 1 0 1 2 2 3	
Morwell Pegasus SC	1 0 0 1 0 1 0	
Nunawading City SC	1 0 0 1 1 3 0	
Springvale City Vales SC	1 0 0 1 1 3 0	
Fitzroy City SC	1 0 0 1 0 2 0	
Southern Suburbs SC	P W D L F A P T	
Mooroolbark SC	2 2 0 0 4 2 6	
Endeavour United SC	2 2 0 0 3 1 6	
Eastern Lions	1 1 0 0 5 0 3	
Morwell Pegasus SC	1 1 0 0 4 1 3	
Southern Suburbs SC	1 1 0 0 2 1 3	
Nunawading City SC	1 1 0 0 1 0 3	
Fitzroy City SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Doveton SC	1 0 0 1 0 1 0	
Berwick City SC	2 0 0 2 2 4 0	
Sandringham City SC	2 0 0 2 1 3 0	
Frankston Strikers SC	1 0 0 1 1 4 0	

Seniors	PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST	Reserves
Lyndale United 2 (B Aitken) Old Melbourneians 5 (D Henderson, A Camody, J Pearce 2) (HT: 1-1), Croydon City Arrows 1 White Star Dandenong 3 (I Styzen 2, K Szwed) (HT: 1-0), Rowville Eagles 2 (D Pop, A Sabau) Berwick Kings 0 (HT: 0-0), Noble Park United Monbulk 0 (HT: 0-0), Monash University 2 (G Costaras) Brandon Park 3 (S Kyriazis, S Kennedy, A Hakim) (HT: 0-0), Warragul United 3 (S Byers, P Cooper, MR Petersen) Riversdale Soccer Club 0 (HT: 1-0)		
Monbulk SC	P W D L F A P T	
Noble Park United FC	2 1 1 0 5 0 4	
Old Melbourneians SC	2 1 1 0 2 1 4	
Warragul United SC	1 1 0 0 5 2 3	
White Star Dandenong SC	1 1 0 0 3 0 3	
Brandon Park SC	1 1 0 0 3 1 3	
Rowville Eagles SC	1 1 0 0 3 2 3	
Monash University SC	2 1 0 1 2 5 3	
Croydon City Arrows SC	1 0 0 1 2 3 0	
Berwick Kings FC	1 0 0 1 1 3 0	
Lyndale United SC	1 0 0 1 0 2 0	
Riversdale SC	1 0 0 1 2 5 0	
Monash University SC	P W D L F A P T	
Croydon City Arrows SC	1 1 0 0 4 0 3	
Lyndale United SC	1 1 0 0 3 0 3	
Warragul United SC	1 1 0 0 2 1 3	
Riversdale SC	1 1 0 0 2 1 3	
Monbulk SC	2 1 0 1 2 2 3	
Rowville Eagles SC	2 0 2 0 3 3 2	
Berwick Kings FC	2 0 2 0 2 2 2	
Noble Park United FC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	
Old Melbourneians SC	2 0 1 1 2 3 1	
White Star Dandenong SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	
Brandon Park SC	1 0 0 1 0 4 0	

Seniors	PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST	Reserves
Keysborough 0 Ashburton 4 (C Prountzos, J Boyle, JA Clemson 2) (HT: 0-1), Dandenong Sparrows 0 Mitcham United 1 (B Stevens) (HT: 0-0), Old Trinity Grammarians 2 (R Parisella 2) Mornington 4 (M Bailey 3) (HT: 2-1), Carrum United 1 (M Dordoma) Caulfield Cobras 0 (HT: 0-0), Beaumaris 0 Scotch Old Boys 3 (T Mitchell, B Whittaker) (HT: 0-0), Noble Park 2 Seaford United 5 (P Carr, M Mitchell, G Alonzo, D Tshilombo) (HT: 1-2)		
Scotch Old Boys SC	P W D L F A P T	
Seaford United SC	2 2 0 0 12 1 6	
Ashburton SC	2 2 0 0 8 2 6	
Mornington SC	2 1 1 0 5 1 4	
Mitcham United SC	1 1 0 0 4 2 3	
Carrum United SC	1 1 0 0 1 0 3	
Beaumaris SC	2 1 0 0 1 3 3	
Caulfield Cobras	2 0 1 0 1 1 4	
Dandenong Sparrows	1 0 0 1 0 1 0	
Old Trinity Grammarians	1 0 0 1 0 1 0	
Keysborough SC	1 0 0 1 2 4 0	
Noble Park SC	1 0 0 1 0 4 0	
Seaford United SC	P W D L F A P T	
Scotch Old Boys SC	2 2 0 0 12 2 6	
Ashburton SC	2 1 1 0 3 1 4	
Keysborough SC	2 1 0 1 5 3 3	
Mitcham United SC	1 1 0 0 3 1 3	
Caulfield Cobras	1 1 0 0 2 0 3	
Old Trinity Grammarians	1 1 0 0 1 0 3	
Beaumaris SC	1 0 1 0 2 2 1	
Carrum United SC	1 0 1 0 2 2 1	
Mornington SC	2 0 1 1 0 4 1	
Dandenong Sparrows SC	2 0 1 1 2 9 1	
Noble Park SC	1 0 0 1 0 1 0	
Noble Park SC	1 0 0 1 0 2 0	

Seniors	PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST	Reserves	
Boroondara Lions 1 Endeavour Hills 1 (J Kisinorbo) (HT: 1-1), Old Carey Bye (HT: -), Bundoora United FC 1 Old Camberwell Grammar 9 (P Margin 5, D Finnie 2, A Sprekos 2) (HT: 1-5), Dandenong Warriors 1 (E Ratna) Ringwood City 1 (C Munro) (HT: 1-0), Old Brighton Grammarians 2 (M Strintzos, M Cameron) Brighton 1 (HT: 1-0), Eltham North 3 (D Oehme 2, B Houppapa) Dandenong City 2 (I Skorupski, Z Oспенica) (HT: 1-2)		Boroondara Lions 3 Endeavour Hills 0 (HT: -), Old Carey Bye (HT: -), Bundoora United FC 1 Old Camberwell Grammar 1 (HT: -), Dandenong Warriors 2 Ringwood City 0 (HT: -), Old Brighton Grammarians 0 Brighton 3 (HT: -), Eltham North 5 Dandenong City 0 (HT: -)	
Old Brighton Grammarians SC	P W D L F A P T	Eltham North SC	P W D L F A P T
Old Camberwell Grammar SC	2 2 0 0 4 1 6	Brighton SC	1 1 0 0 5 0 3
Eltham North SC	1 1 0 0 9 1 3	Boroondara Lions FC	1 1 0 0 3 0 3
Endeavour Hills SC	1 1 0 0 3 2 3	Dandenong Warriors SC	2 1 0 1 4 2 3
Dandenong Warriors SC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	Old Brighton Grammarians	1 1 0 0 2 0 3
Ringwood City SC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1	Old Camberwell Grammar	2 1 0 1 2 4 3
Boroondara Lions FC	2 0 1 0 1 3 1	Bundoora United FC	1 0 1 0 1 1 1
Old Carey SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Old Carey SC	0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Dandenong City SC	1 0 0 1 2 3 0	Ringwood City SC	1 0 0 1 0 2 0
Brighton SC	1 0 0 1 1 2 0	Endeavour Hills SC	1 0 0 1 0 3 0
Bundoora United FC	1 0 0 1 1 9 0	Dandenong City SC	1 0 0 1 0 5 0

ROUND 3 FIXTURES
State 2 NW Pascoe Vale v Yarraville Glory <i>Darebin International SC 27 Apr 07 8:30PM</i> Keilor Park v Altona City <i>Keilor Park Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Lalor United v Moreland City <i>To Be Confirmed 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Altona East Phoenix v Williamstown <i>Paisley Park Soccer Complex 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Thomastown Devils v Werribee City <i>Epping Soccer Stadium 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Maribyrnong Greens v Sunbury <i>United Skinner Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i>
State 2 SE Northcote City v Diamond Valley United <i>John Cain Memorial Park 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Waverley Wanderers v Chelsea <i>Carlson Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Heatherton United v Stonnington City <i>Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Templestowe Eagles v South Springvale <i>Wilson Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Clifton Hill United v Knox City <i>Kevin Bartlett Reserve 28 Apr 07 7:00PM</i> North Caulfield v Doncaster Rovers <i>To Be Confirmed 29 Apr 07 3:00PM</i>

State 3 NW Plenty Valley Lions v Geelong Rangers <i>Bundoora Park Pavilion 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> La Trobe University v Ballarat Soccer Club <i>Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Avondale Heights v Sydenham Park <i>Doyle Street Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Westvale v Lalor <i>McKechnie Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Banyule City v Geelong <i>Yallambie Park Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Corio v Cairnlea <i>Hume Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i>	State 3 SE Doveton v Berwick City <i>Waratah Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Nunawading City v Mooroolbark <i>Mahoneys Road Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Fitzroy City v Southern Suburbs <i>Fairfield Park 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Endeavour United v Springvale City Vales <i>Reema Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Sandringham City v Frankston Strikers <i>RJ Sillitoe Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Eastern Lions v Morwell Pegasus <i>Gardiners Creek Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i>
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Provisional 1 NW North Sunshine Eagles v Western Eagles <i>Larissa Reserve 28 Apr 07 3:00PM</i> Hoppers Crossing v Melbourne Uni Rangers <i></i>

SAINTS & COBURG SET EARLY PACE

Saturday's rain, a welcome sight for many Victorians, was not so welcome for teams in the State League One, with many teams resorting to defensive tactics to combat the skills-hampering rain.

In a weekend which saw the majority of away teams prevail in State League One, the ladder reveals the contrasting fortunes of the teams.

While it may only be round two, St. Albans will already have promotion to the Foxtel Cup in their sights, if their early-season victories in round one, and 2-1 win on Saturday against Casey at Comets Stadium, are anything to go by.

Also unbeaten, over at Dandenong Thunder's home of George Andrews Reserve, Coburg United won their second match against the Thunder 2-0 courtesy of goals either side of halftime from Mustafa Mustafa and Nick Harry. The passionate, or spiteful, Saturday

night match produced three yellow cards as referee Sergio Terceiro moved to stamp his authority on the match.

At the other end of the spectrum though, North Geelong must lift their game if they are to be contenders come the end of the season, with two demoralising early losses. The Warriors have been decidedly disappointing, especially after last year's fourth placing in the league which had critics considering the possibilities of the Warriors in the top flight.

Their home match against newly promoted Southern Stars was an improvement on round one, but still left plenty to be desired from last year's free-flowing attacking style, with the Stars holding on to be 1-0 victors thanks to a Vincent Bontemps brace at Elcho Park.

Fellow newcomers Casey, however, can at least take one positive out of their beginning

in State League One, with the form of Ben Watson earning him two goals and plenty of praise from Comets faithful and opponents alike.

Meanwhile, Brunswick have kicked their 2007 campaign off in winning style, with a 2-1 win over a determined Frankston Pines outfit at Monterey Reserve.

A goal from Cameron Leopold was not enough to secure victory for the Pines, as Jason Bosnic and Damien Genovese scored to take the game for Brunswick.

Bucking the trend of away teams winning was Westgate as they prevail in a battle of attrition against Langwarrin at Ardeer Reserve 1-0 with Aleksandar Jovicic's first-half winner.

It was a similar story for the Bentleigh Greens whose goal came from Clifford Tuck to take the three points for the Greens over Port Melbourne at Kingston Heath Soccer

Complex, much to the delight of the home crowd. The win will put the Greens in good stead for next Saturday's away match against Langwarrin.

Next Sunday afternoon's St. Albans versus Coburg United at Churchill Reserve on match-up looms as the match of the week in Round 3, as the form sides at the moment clash in a result which could go either way.

Another huge match is when the league's new boys, Southern Stars and Casey Comets take on each other in a grudge match which could have a big impact on the final make up of the league. The Comets will be looking for their debut win in the league, while the Stars will be hopeful that they can continue their winning form after their defeat of the Warriors.

By Jeremy O'Neill

Photos by John Punshon

Below: Clearing the deck - A Casey Comets defender sets off after the loose ball as goalkeeper Robbie Acs and St Albans striker, Dragan Viskovic can only look on at Comets Stadium



DIVISION ONE RESULTS

Frankston Pines 1 (C Leopold) Brunswick City 2 (J Bosnic, DP Genovese) (HT: 1-1), North Geelong Warriors 0 Southern Stars 1 (V Bontemps) (HT: 0-1), Casey Comets 1 (B Watson) St. Albans Saints 2 (D Viskovic, T Saric) (HT: 1-2), Westgate 1 (A Jovicic) Langwarrin 0 (HT: 1-0), Dandenong Thunder 0 Coburg United 2 (M Mustafa, N Harry) (HT: 0-1), Bentleigh Greens 1 (C Tuck) Port Melbourne 0 (HT: 1-0)

ROUND THREE FIXTURES

Port Melbourne v Frankston Pines
JL Murphy Reserve - SS Anderson Oval
Friday 27 April 8:30PM

Southern Stars v Casey Comets
Ross Reserve
Saturday 28 April 3:00PM

Brunswick City v North Geelong Warriors
Dunstan Reserve
Saturday 28 April 3:00PM

Langwarrin v Bentleigh Greens
Lawton Park Reserve
Saturday 28 April 3:00PM

Westgate v Dandenong Thunder
Ardeer Reserve
Saturday 28 April 7:00PM

St. Albans Saints v Coburg United
Churchill Reserve
Sunday 29 April 3:00PM

DIVISION ONE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
St. Albans Saints SC	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Coburg United FC	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Brunswick City SC	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Bentleigh Greens SC	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Southern Stars FC	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Westgate FC	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Frankston Pines SC	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Langwarrin SC	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Port Melbourne Sharks SC	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Casey Comets SC	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Dandenong Thunder SC	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
North Geelong Warriors SC	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

RESERVE DETAILS

Frankston Pines 1 Brunswick City 3, North Geelong Warriors 1 Southern Stars 1, Casey Comets 1 St. Albans Saints 3, Westgate 1 Langwarrin 2, Dandenong Thunder 0 Coburg United 4, Bentleigh

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Coburg United FC	2	2	0	0	10	0	6
St. Albans Saints SC	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Brunswick City SC	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Bentleigh Greens SC	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Langwarrin SC	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Southern Stars FC	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
North Geelong Warriors SC	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
Westgate FC	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Frankston Pines SC	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Port Melbourne Sharks SC	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Dandenong Thunder SC	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Casey Comets SC	2	0	0	2	1	9	0

BERGERS GAIN REVENGE!

A tantalizing round of matches was served up in Round 4 of the Women's Premier League, and the action did not fail to disappoint. The congestion at the top of the table has eased slightly, with three teams now sharing the lead on points, rather than the four who entered the round locked at the top.

Heidelberg made the most of its strong start to claim the scalp of reigning premier Inter, while Casey recorded its first win and Ashburton thumped Bendigo. In other matches, Eltham and Preston continued their red-hot starts to the campaign, and it finished all square between Sandringham and Eastern Lions.

The Grand Final rematch between Heidelberg United and Box Hill Inter received top billing in the WPL this week, and the match itself lived up to the hype. With the sides going into the game separated only by a slender goal difference, it promised to be a tough encounter. It was first blood to the home side, with Heidelberg grabbing the only goal of the opening period to lead the reigning premier at the halftime interval. Both sides netted twice following the break, with Heidelberg holding on to record a famous victory and claim second place on the ladder. As a result of the defeat, Inter's first in the league since Round 13 last year, the champion finds itself in the unfamiliar position of fifth on the ladder, three points adrift of the leading group.

Ashburton rocketed to the top of a congested Women's Premier League table with a thumping victory over a Bendigo Vipers side that seemingly ran out of legs in a one sided second half. The game appeared fairly evenly balanced, on the scoreboard at least, at half time, with the home side leading by a single goal. However, Bendigo was unable to withstand a second half onslaught, which yielded five unanswered goals. The win, Ashburton's third of the fledgling season, moves it to the top of the WPL ladder on goal difference, and maintains its unbeaten beginning to the season. Bendigo finished the round in ninth place on the ladder, with just one win from four outings so far.

Two stalwarts of the WPL competition, albeit ones that have enjoyed a less than stellar start to the current campaign, met on Sunday when Keilor Park hosted Casey Comets. With only one win between them prior to this game, the sides which last met in last year's finals were both desperate for a win to kick start their sluggish seasons. As is so often the case with meetings between Keilor and Casey, it proved a close encounter, and with each side finding the net in the first half, there

was nothing to separate the two going into the second period. However, it was Casey that was able to break the deadlock, and a single strike after half time proved enough to earn Casey its first win, thanks to a 2-1 result. However, both sides are still languishing in the lower region of the WPL ladder, with the Comets having climbed to eighth, and Keilor a point further back in tenth.

Eastern Lions can breathe a small sigh of relief after finally picking up its first point of the season, after playing out a 2-2 draw with Sandringham at RJ Sillitoe Reserve on Saturday. It will no doubt have emerged the happier of the two sides at the result, with Sandringham yet to register a win over the Lions on home soil. Both sides found the net once during the first half, and the evenness on the scoreboard was maintained in the second half, with a goal apiece to each side after the break. The draw means that Sandringham was unable to take advantage of the opportunity to break into the top five, and remains sixth on the ladder with six points. Despite picking up its first point, Eastern Lions remains near the foot of the ladder, in eleventh position.

Eltham North continued its impressive opening form with its third win of the season, courtesy of a three-goal victory over the University of Melbourne. One goal in the first half set up the win, with Eltham adding a further brace after the interval, to which the University was unable to find reply. Eltham continues to occupy the upper echelons of the ladder, sitting in fourth place, a point behind the leading group of three. The University is seventh, with four points from its four matches to date.

Two teams who have enjoyed starkly contrasting starts to the season met at White Eagle House on Sunday, when WVSA hosted Preston Lions. Unfortunately for WVSA, there proved no let up in its miserable start to life in the top flight, as it slumped to its fourth consecutive defeat. The game was all over at half time, with Preston notching two goals, while WVSA found the net once. Preston was able to hold on to its slender advantage to chalk up its third victory, and maintain its unbeaten start to the season. Preston has been one of the real surprise packages of the season so far, and it currently occupies third position on the ladder, level with the two sides above it on points. WVSA is still in search of its first point in the WPL, and it remains anchored to the foot of the ladder.



ROUND FIVE FIXTURES

Box Hill v Keilor Park Wembley Park Friday 27 April 8:30PM	Preston Lions v Eltham North BT Connor Reserve Sunday 29 April 1:00PM
Bendigo Vipers v Heidelberg United Beischer Oval Saturday 28 April 2:30PM	Uni. Of Melbourne v Ashburton Princes Park (Parkville) Sunday 29 April 3:00PM
Casey Comets v Eastern Lions Comets Stadium Sunday 29 April 1:00PM	WVSA v Sandringham Howard Glover Reserve Sunday 29 April 3:00PM

RESERVE DETAILS

Sandringham 5 Eastern Lions 1, Eltham North 6 Uni. Of Melbourne 0, Heidelberg United Box Hill , Keilor Park 2 Casey Comets 0, WVSA 1 Preston Lions 1, Ashburton 12 Bendigo Vipers 0

WPL RESULTS

Sandringham 2 (A Good, S Rogers) Eastern Lions 2 (N Haines, K Sailor) (HT: 1-1), Eltham North 3 (A Nikodijevic, C Tangelos, J Thomas) Uni. Of Melbourne 0 (HT: 1-0), Heidelberg United 3 (S Groenewald, B Pannella, C Cisternino) Box Hill 2 (H Klerides, E Avram) (HT: 1-0), Keilor Park 1 (N Vukovic) Casey Comets 2 (J Black, S Fitzgerald) (HT: 1-1), WVSA 1 (R Reddan) Preston Lions 2 (A Kelly, S Apostolidis) (HT: 1-2), Ashburton 6 (A Gibney 2, C Dussoye 2, S Erenli, T Grkinjic) Bendigo Vipers 0 (HT: 1-0)

By Niki Cook
Photos by John Punshon

WPL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ashburton WSC	4	3	1	0	16	2	10
Heidelberg United WSC	4	3	1	0	12	6	10
Preston Lions WSC	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
Eltham North WSC	4	3	0	1	8	4	9
Box Hill	4	2	1	1	14	7	7
Sandringham WSC	4	1	3	0	9	7	6
Uni. Of Melbourne WSC	4	1	1	2	9	10	4
Casey Comets	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Bendigo Vipers WSC	4	1	0	3	7	10	3
Keilor Park WSC	4	1	0	3	8	13	3
Eastern Lions	4	0	1	3	4	14	1
WVSA WSC	4	0	0	4	5	22	0

WPL RESERVE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ashburton WSC	4	4	0	0	28	0	12
Eltham North WSC	4	4	0	0	24	2	12
Sandringham WSC	4	4	0	0	22	2	12
Keilor Park WSC	4	3	0	1	10	4	9
Uni. Of Melbourne WSC	4	2	0	2	4	15	6
Bendigo Vipers WSC	4	1	1	2	7	22	4
Heidelberg United WSC	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Box Hill	3	1	0	2	6	10	3
Eastern Lions	4	1	0	3	5	13	3
Preston Lions WSC	4	0	2	2	2	8	2
WVSA WSC	4	0	1	3	2	14	1
Casey Comets	4	0	0	4	0	17	0

Katsa's Korner With George Katsamboukas

Welcome to Season 2007, albeit belatedly. Wishing all players, coaches, spectators and administrators all the best for Season 2007. To the winners the spoils, to the losers, the West Gate Bridge is still there, beautifully resurfaced by Vic Roads over the off season. Usually the off season is as quiet on the soccer news front as my return to the Katsa residence in the wee hours of a Saturday morning. Not so this year. The recent off season has seen one controversy unfold after another. Let's take it all in - round by round.

Round 1

2006 VPL season concludes, what emerges is a battle royale between Essendon Royals (pardon the pun) and Sunshine Georgies, over an allegation that Essendon may have played a suspended player in their game against Fawkner. Your referee for this contest was the FFV, with a number of courts and prominent barristers and solicitors warming up on the side lines, ready to be called into action. Problem solved, neither gets relegated, oh, but there's more, AIS admitted to VPL for season 2007. Frankston Pines, any interest in staying up also?

Round 2

Announcement of V-League for 2008. New criteria for clubs wanting to join? Grandstands, parking, large dressing rooms for both players, and my very good friends, the men in black. As a bonus to the long suffering fans, more toilets to be also built, no consideration given to the trees at various grounds that had been "watered"

on for many years!

Round 3

Resignation of FFV CEO Tony Pignatta.

Round 4

FFV announces that there will be no relegation from VPL for Season 2007

Round 5

Plans for 2008 V-League shelved.

Round 6

Just prior to the commencement of 2007 VPL Season, the FFV announces that there will be relegation from the VPL at the conclusion of Season 2007.

As an extra ball, 4 teams will be relegated, with a further flow down effect through all the lower Leagues. But wait, there's more!

Round 7

Transfer window closed firmly shut one day before the VPL kick-off.

The jury is still out as to if and when clubs were advised of this. The above events have seriously affected people's confidence in the management of soccer in Victoria

Take pity on clubs who have the goal posts constantly moved by the FFV, and I do not mean the ones that are on grounds!

The game should be thriving after the great performance of the Socceroos in last year's World Cup, as it is in other states.

Something has to give and very soon, otherwise our great game will continue to suffer.

To all of our readers who have asked why Goal! Weekly was not published earlier, there is a simple answer. The Goal! Weekly team is made up of unpaid volunteers, who have a passion for the game. Obviously there are publishing costs in producing this 'paper, and for it to survive, it does rely on advertising from companies.

In the past, the FFV have contributed financially to assist with the running costs, however, this year, they chose to not assist financially, leaving Victorian soccer with no soccer publication. They however had no issue in paying the Herald Sun each week, to provide a small advertisement containing the week's fixtures, for what I understand was approximately over three times the weekly cost it contributed to GW. Correct decision or not, I will let each of you judge.

Credit to our Editor who has over the last 2 months, worked tirelessly to get Goal! Weekly up and running once again.

Season 2007 in the VPL has seen some stability in the coaching ranks, as to date, there have been no changes.

However, seek.com.au are not too happy about this at the moment as there are a number of coaches hanging on to their jobs with a slim thread.

The next few weeks will see the number of unemployed VPL Coached increase. The question remains, will the record that was set last year for the number of coaches sacked be beaten this year?

Speaking about coaching changes, who can forget the battle royale between Craig Foster and Ange Postecoglou late last year on SBS's, The World Game programme? That I believe was a catalyst for Ange not having his contract with



the FFA to coach the Joeys and Under 20 National teams, renewed.

A peaceful Sunday afternoon turned into a war of words between the two and it resembled a World Series of Poker match, with Foster setting up Postecoglou, pre flop - Ange went all in, with Foster calling, only for Ange to lose the match. One word that Ange's used a lot was a word that any coach that wants to keep his job should avoid at all costs, and that is the word "resign". VPL coaches must viewing for those that want to sharpen up on their job keeping skills, it can be viewed on YouTube, do the necessary searches and the interview will be replayed.

Back to the VPL V-League Foxtel Cup, apologies for the confusion with the names, but as Clint Eastwood once said in one of his classics movies - "With all this excitement, I plain forgot".

The million dollar question is what format will the League take next year?

I'm sure that all current VPL club administrators are asking themselves this question right now, FFV, please explain....

Until Next week.

This is Katsa - Just as you've known him!

VIS MAKES DEBUT IN VPL UNDER 21s

By Adrian Ceddia

Victorian Institute of Sport

The Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) soccer squad is gearing up for its debut performance in the 2007 Football Federation Victoria (FFV) season.

For the first time, the VIS will have a team competing for points in the weekly competition and started its campaign on a winning note by defeating Richmond Eagles 2-1 in the opening round of the under 21 competition back in early March.

The team will play in the curtain raiser to Victorian Premier League senior matches involving a team from the Australian Institute of Sport, which is also joining the FFV ranks for the first time.

The 20-player VIS squad includes some of the best teenage talent in Victoria, hand-picked by head coach Ian Greener and assistant Mehmet Durakovic.

The team, made up of players in their mid teens, has been led through a solid pre season training regime at the VIS and played a number of senior VPL teams in practice matches, including 2006 grand finalist Altona Magic. Six squad members were also picked to take part in Melbourne Victory's final practice match three days before this year's A-League grand final.

The VIS was highly influential in providing the make-up of Melbourne's championship-winning team, with nine members of the 2006-07 squad former members of the institute.

"The VIS has a wonderful record of producing fine young soccer players who have gone on to play at the highest level

in the world game including Vince Grella, Josh Kennedy and Scott MacDonald," coach Greener said.

"The current crop of young scholarship holders is our youngest ever. The opportunity to play in the U21 FFV Premier League competition will be both challenging but enormously helpful in the development of these 14 and 15 year olds, as they look towards their Victory role models for further guidance to their future pathway both domestically and internationally. "We thank FFV for this valuable opportunity."

FFV Acting Chief Executive Officer George Angelopoulos said the league was looking forward to welcoming the VIS in 2007. "Victorian football fans are privileged this year to see the best of the best Victorian youngsters turning out for the VIS in the Victorian Premier League under 21 competition," Angelopoulos said.

"We now have the future stars of the game showcased each round across the city with the AIS in the senior competition and the VIS in the Under 21's. It's a move that generates fresh interest in our flagship competition amongst our existing clubs members and fans and potential new supporters of the game that may not have experienced VPL football before."

2007 Victorian Institute of Sport Squad:

Bailey Wright, Rani Dowisha, Dado Lokvamcic, Stuart Wilson, Michael Manceski, Teddy Yabio, Petar Franjic, Mitchell Bissinger, Kamal Ibrahim, Ridvan Saglam, Fabio Di Lizia, Anthony Bran, Stephen Hatostas, Koray Kurk, James Jeggo, Alex Tabor, Kliment Taseski, Joshua Groenwald, Braydon Dunne, Sebastian Mattei.



15 year old VIS rookie, Kliment Taseski from North Dandenong, sharpens his skills at training to prepare mixing it with the Foxtel Cup young guns.

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BOO'S WORLD

A satirical look at the World of Football according to Mark Boric

This is the resurrection and this is the light. I'm paraphrasing I Am The Resurrection by The Stone Roses here, because Goal! Weekly has undergone its own resurrection and also it is a top song. "Down down, you bring me down," is it a line about relegation, or just general dismay at the people running our game?

It's neither, of course, because the song is unrelated to football. But I do find some of the lyrics could be used by the protagonists in the recent FFV upheavals. "Cut loose, 'cos you're no use, I couldn't stand another second in your company" is one such line. "Stone me, why can't you see? You're a no-one, nowhere washed up baby who'd look better dead" is another. For a while I thought if Goal! Weekly ever came back, I'd write an extraordinarily long and scathing attack on the recent FFV debacles. I've listened to that song too many times however, especially the final lines.

I am the resurrection and I am the light

I couldn't ever bring myself to hate you as I'd like

So we move on. Not really, we go back. In the paper's absence, there was an A League Grand Final. Won by Melbourne Victory. Quite easily in the end, the Adelaide mob offered little resistance. The lack of discipline of their coach and captain saw them both axed (but not stuck in barrels) shortly after.

Next year Melbourne Victory will be in the Asian Champions League. Should have been in it this year but that's AFC rules for you. Sadly for the Adelaide and Sydney fans who taunted Melbourne about this fact, whilst Melbourne was setting about winning the league, their sides have failed to make the most of their Asian travels. Not being able to beat gun Japanese and Korean teams is understandable, but these guys have been losing to teams of rice farmers and suchlike.

Actually I do have one more dig at the local ad-

ministrators of the game which I'd already written for what was originally scheduled to be the first issue of the season.

Leonardo da Vinci, William Shakespeare, Pele, Sir Donald Bradman, Muhammad Ali and Scatman John. All recognised as being amongst the greatest in their chosen fields of endeavour. Sadly it is highly unlikely there will ever be any Victorian football administrators who will attain such standing.

RIP Scatman John. You took the stuttering in rap baton from Morris Minor and the Majors and ran with it to new levels.

There's more from the column I've decided to keep. Back to that A League Grand Final we go: It was a Grand Final that Carl Veart claimed "three blind mice" could have officiated better. Those three blind mice could also have provided a better defensive combination for Adelaide as well, I suppose. Ross Aloisi thought his sending off was harsh, but his hip and shoulder was later than the official 2007 VPL fixtures.

Melbourne Italian backed team's have solved the problems of running out of teams to merge with by unmerging then merging with someone else. This is expected to prolong the merging phenomenon by at least another ten years! Forza Mergers!

All my Christmasses came at once last year when I came into possession of a large stack of Soccer Action newspapers. I hope to share with you the benefit of the knowledge I have gained through reading them over the course of this season. At the moment I am going through the "Hat Trick Certificates" they used to give the young kiddies to see for just how many seasons Sonny Sevin was nine years old.

The other knowledge I gained from those Soccer Action was that Ratko Crnic has the secret of success. And like me he was born for football.

My dream is to see England at the top in world soccer.

YOU NEED A COACH?

I am ready to take over your club and bring it success

I was born for football
I am fully professional
I have the secret of success
I was a great player
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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Photo kindly supplied and taken by John Punshon.

In the years prior to forfeits, extreme security requirements and member only attendances, Victorian football could boast it had not one, but two of the best football clubs in the land. In days gone by, South Melbourne and the Melbourne Knights continuously provided the national team with a string of Socceroos and the NSL with passionate derbies along with its best crowds. The picture features two greats of the game, South Melbourne's Paul Wade (115 appearances and 11 goals for Australia), climbing to head the ball over Melbourne Croatia's Josip Biskic (1991/2 NSL Player of the Year). The photo was taken on the opening day of the 1990 season. Hungarian legend, Ferenc Puskas, was the coach of South in those days and implemented a style of play that has seldom been seen in the country since. Biskic is now the coach of Doncaster Rovers

Joe Biskic: They were always exciting matches and when you played South Melbourne at Middle Park, they were pretty much unbeatable. I remember Peter Tsolakis scored from a free-kick and it was even more memorable because George Hannah actually scored that day too. I think he only ever scored one other goal apart from that one, against Sydney Olympic. There was always high expectations from both sides when these two teams met and you could really feel the heat when these games came around. I was never that good in the air and Wadey was such a hard working midfielder - I think he won every challenge in the air when we played! I remember I was subbed during that game because of an injury and it was probably the only time I ever had to come off. It was so bad that I didn't even play the following week.



MATCH STATS

Sunday, October 7, 1990
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1
(Tsolakis 11')

MELBOURNE CROATIA 1
(Hannah -')

Middle Park Soccer Stadium.
Att: 4,103.
Referee: John Santa Isabel.
Caution: Awaritefe (mc).

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Bruce Maclaren, David Healy (Paul Fernandes 46'), Angie Postecoglou, Mehmet Durakovic, Steve Blair, Paul Wade, Kimon Talia-doros, Mike Petersen, Danny Wright (Joe Palatsides 75'), Steve Tasios, Peter Tsolakis.
Coach: Ferenc Puskas.

MELBOURNE CROATIA:
David Miller, Andrew Marth, George Hannah, Ivan Kelic, Francis Awaritefe (Paul Donnelly 62'), Mark Talajic, Branko Milosevic, Josip Biskic (Mark Silic 46'), Alan Davidson, Theo Selemidis, Joe Caleta.
Coach: Ante Grgic.

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ENGLAND ROUND-UP



SUCCEROO: A POM'S HOME VIEW BY RICHARD SUCKSMITH

Last week Manchester United have progressed, in an almost perfect manor, to the Semi Final of the Champions League and to the Final of the FA Cup. With 11 goals for and 2 against, in 2 games in an inspiring show of talent and strength. Chelsea meanwhile continues to grind out results in a less than attractive style winning with a single goal margin. Both teams are utterly different beasts, but they may be nearly impossible to separate when the trophies are divvied up next month. Will it be Man Utd's treble, Chelsea's quadruple or even honours with a double each?

Both teams have managed to win endlessly and often undeservingly, although United have undoubtedly produced the best football. They have been largely unaffected by injuries, until recently, with Ferguson able to employ his first-choice team, with fringe players largely filling-in as a matter of luxury rather than necessity. With Scholes (having his overdue Indian summer) and Ronaldo, arguably the best player in the world standing out as pivotal figures.

In contrast, Chelsea has suffered badly with injuries. They have played without Petr Cech and John Terry and have therefore been defensively weak. While Chelsea's squad is no smaller than Man Utd's, (both teams have 22 first choice players), Chelsea's main problem is the imbalance of the squad. They have only 3 strikers, 3 central defenders and 10 midfield players (Ballack, Lampard, Cole, Makalele,

Essien, Obi Mikel, Robben, Wright Phillips, Diarra and Geremi) of whom at least 6 are central midfielders! Their outstanding players have been Drogba (with 31 goals) and Essien (who has played as central and wide midfield, right back and centre back).

United and Chelsea seem destined to go head to head three times in a fortnight to contest the Premiership, the FA Cup and the Champions League. This week Liverpool stands in Chelsea's way, (and Milan in United's way) of reaching the Champions League Final, but I suspect Mourinho will believe deep down that it is quite inconceivable that Liverpool will repeat their 2005 luck (with a dubious goal) and knock them out at the Semi-Final stage.

Although the two teams are very different, the two managers have an affinity. "I like Jose, we get on fine," Alex Ferguson once said. Meanwhile Mourinho has commented, "I have a lot of respect for Ferguson. I call him boss because he is the manager's boss... We have little words, little fights in the press... We can have a fight, but he is pure and honest. Five minutes later it is over." Their occasional squabbling via the media is trivia that does not linger in the mind of either. Fergie surely sees in Mourinho a version of his younger self.

If Man United produces a second treble Fergusson will become indisputably the greatest manager of our time, or if Chelsea achieves the unprecedented quadruple, the title will go to



'Fergie and his Mini-Mourinho-Me'

Mourinho. I do not believe it likely for either of them to win all three trophies (or four, in Chelsea's case as they have already won the Carling Cup). While it is possible to achieve, as United won the treble before in 1999, it was an easier situation as they had the league already wrapped up early.

United are currently ahead in points and goal difference but their draw against Boro was costly. The going is tough, with both teams now playing twice a week; every game is equally important and treated as a cup final. Both managers are more determined than ever to make history... albeit at the other's expense.

Premiership Table

As at: Sun 22 Apr 07

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Man Utd	34	26	4	4	78	24	54	82
Chelsea	33	24	6	3	60	20	40	78
Liverpool	35	20	7	8	54	22	32	67
Arsenal	35	18	9	8	59	33	26	63
Everton	35	14	12	9	46	31	15	54
Bolton	5	16	6	13	42	45	-3	54
Reading	35	15	6	14	48	42	6	51
Tottenham	34	14	8	12	49	50	-1	50
Portsmouth	34	13	10	11	43	38	5	49
Blackburn	34	13	5	16	42	49	-7	44
Aston Villa	34	9	15	10	36	39	-3	42
Man City	35	11	9	15	28	39	-11	42
Newcastle	34	11	8	15	37	43	-6	41
Middlesboro	35	10	10	15	38	45	-7	40
Fulham	35	7	15	13	35	54	-19	36
Wigan	35	9	8	18	35	54	-19	35
Sheff Utd	35	9	8	18	30	50	-20	35
Charlton	35	8	9	18	31	52	-21	33
West Ham	35	9	5	21	28	58	-30	32
Watford	35	4	12	19	26	57	-31	24

Gossip from the English Media....

Newcastle are ready to go to war with the FA to stop Michael Owen playing for England in June. (Daily Star)

Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich had a celebratory post-FA Cup semi-final victory hug with Jose Mourinho. (The Sun)

Liverpool co-owner Tom Hicks has said Rafael Benitez's wife holds the key to keeping the Reds manager out of Real Madrid's clutches. Hicks said: "Rafa's under contract and he told me his wife has said that if he ever did go he would have to go without her because she is staying in Liverpool." (Various)

Aberdeen have placed an advertisement headlined "lonely seat seeks bottom" in an attempt to embarrass fans to return to Pittodrie Stadium. (Daily Record)

Inverness Caley Thistle will not play in the next Intertoto Cup as the second round game will clash with an Elton John concert at their ground. (Daily Record)

Dwight Yorke believes that landing a Championship medal with Sunderland would rival his trophy-winning feats at Manchester United. (Various)

Alan Curbishley has told his West Ham players to stop over-celebrating goals, as the bookings could cost them Premiership survival. (Various)

Arsene Wenger's future at Arsenal is in doubt after his closest ally, vice-chairman David Dein, left the club on Wednesday. (Daily Star)

American billionaire Stan Kroenke is poised to mount a £650m hostile takeover of Arsenal. (Daily Express)

Everton will earn a £1.65m windfall from Man United if Wayne Rooney helps them to win the treble this season. (Daily Star)

Results

Saturday, 21 April 2007
Barclays Premiership

Bolton 1-3 Reading
Charlton 1-1 Sheff Utd
Fulham 1-1 Blackburn
Liverpool 2-0 Wigan
Man Utd 1-1 Middlesbro'
Tottenham 2-2 Arsenal
Watford 1-1 Man City (Watford are relegated)
West Ham 1-0 Everton

Victorian State League Division Two South East

Knox City 1 Northcote City 1 (Half-time 1-1)

A draw was a fair result in this match played in welcome rain on a pitch that has been decimated by the drought. One of the best surfaces in Victoria has been reduced to an unsightly arena.

Knox City had five seventeen year olds playing their first senior game in the squad. Added to three eighteen year olds, this makes it one of the youngest Knox sides in many a long year.

Robert Brian in the Northcote goal was the first keeper to be called on as he made a full length save in the tenth minute and from the

resultant corner made another fine stop to deny Nick Veljovic's header.

Northcote's Player Coach, Peter Tsolakis was enjoying a huge amount of freedom in the middle of the park and his prompting created a number of openings for the visitors. Mark Jorgensen in the Knox goal was forced to punch clear on three occasions as the experienced Northcote side sought to dominate.

However, it was the home side which took the lead in the 39th minute when a ball was played in to first gamer Koray Suat, who evaded two tackles to send a curling shot past Brian into the corner of the net.

The lead lasted all of 1 minute as Northcote struck back immediately, albeit that there was an element of luck about the goal. Nixon picked up the ball just outside the

area, turned inside his man and shot. The ball took a double deflection, looping over the stranded Jorgensen for the equaliser.

Northcote came out for the second half in determined fashion and dominated the game for the first fifteen minutes of the second half as they stretched the Knox defence with intelligent play. Jorgensen was called on to make one excellent full-length save, but in the main the Knox defence was well marshalled by new signing Darko Perazic and Peter Veljovic, who is back at the club for his third stint.

The second part of this half was even as both side pushed for the winner. Suat had another opportunity when he latched on to a poor goal kick but Brian got down well to save. Jack Hingert made a couple of electrifying runs down the right wing, the first of which resulted in a shot from a tight angle

that went agonisingly wide.

In the end both sides had to settle for a point as time ran out.

Knox City: M. Jorgensen, G. Dos Santos, P. Veljovic, D. Perazic, G. Moon, J. Hingert, N. Giannopoulos (M. Hoogendyk – 80th), H. Swami, D. Veljovic (M. Miladi – 69th), N. Veljovic, K. Suat (M. Coates – 87th). Subs not used – E. Becirovic, K. McEvoy.

Northcote City: R. Brian, G. Papadopoulos, T. Papadopoulos, J. Lazaris, N. Georgakopoulos, J. Theofilopoulos, P. Tsolakis (A. Rauf – 78th), D. Archimandritis, H. Kinigopoulos, T. Rixon, J. Triantopoulos (S. Vourgaslis – 62nd). Subs not used – P. Laskis, C. Theodoridis.

And don't forget to watch the offside!

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If you bear in mind that AC Milan were formed as the Milan Cricket and Football Club by English ex-pats back in 1899 then this week's Champions League semi-finals have a strong English flavour, not to mention a strong sense of déjà vu with the fixtures being almost a re-run of the 2005 semis with Manchester United replacing PSV Eindhoven.

After dispatching Roma with a 7-1 tonking at Old Trafford in the quarter-finals, Man United will be confident of overcoming AC Milan to reach their first Champions League final since they won the thing back in 1999. However, they don't need to look any further than Milan's quarter-final success over Bayern Munich, and particularly the 2-0 away win in Munich, for warning signs, particularly since United's already weakened defence is facing further problems with Rio Ferdinand limping out of Saturday's home draw with Boro with a groin problem to join Neville, Evra, Silvestre and Vidic in the treatment room. Even Alex Fer-



guson won't be confident of going into the first leg at Old Trafford this week with the defence held together by John O'Shea and Darren Fletcher.

Milan meanwhile warmed up for their first leg tie at Old Trafford with a comfortable 3-1 home win over Cagliari (despite Kaladze taking an early bath after a second yellow late on) and they will be hoping Ronaldo can add to the brace he rattled in. United fans will be hoping that he doesn't roll back the years (and the pies) and reprise his stunning hat-trick for Madrid that sent United packing at the semi-final stage back in 2003.

Milan, of course, are back at the semi-final stage for the third year in a row and they will be hoping to go one better than last year when they narrowly lost out to the eventual winners Barcelona. In fact I imagine they'll be cheering on Liverpool in their semi-final with Chelsea in the hope that they can both reach the final and Milan can avenge their defeat on penalties in the 2005



final.

Given both coaches defensive instincts it's hard to see a free-flowing game in the first-leg of the Chelsea vs. Liverpool semi-final at Stamford Bridge this week. As in 2005, Liverpool will be hoping to scrape a draw in the first leg and bring Chelsea back to Anfield on level terms for the second leg next week. Let's hope that Liverpool don't score another controversial winner or Jose Mourinho will spend the next two years moaning even more than he has done about Luis Garcia's winner in 2005. Yes Jose it was over the line, and even if it wasn't over the line it would have been a penalty. Get over it.

A re-run of the Milan vs. Liverpool final in Athens on the 23rd May would be an enticing prospect, although it would probably be a let-down after 2005's epic 3-3 draw and penalties. A Chelsea vs. Man U final could also be a cracker, especially since they go head-to-head in the Premier League title race on the 9th May and the FA Cup Final



on the 19th. On the other hand we may be sick of the sight and sound of them by then, especially if Fergie and Mourinho resort to their dreaded (and feeble) "mind games".

Milan vs. Chelsea might be some people's choice of the ideal final but I'll have to plump for a Man U vs. Liverpool showcase as my preferred pairing.

Now that would be a corker. Although I'm not sure the Athens police would agree.

By Nick Graham

Champions League

Both semi-final games will be broadcast live on SBS.

Man Untd v AC Milan
Wednesday 25th April 4.30am

Chelsea v Liverpool
Thursday 26th April 4.30am

